Australian Bureau of Statistics

ANNUAL REPORT

2019–20

Copyright information and ABS contact details

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The 2019–20 ABS Annual Report can be found at: https://www.transparency.gov.au/publications↗

Acknowledgement of country

The Australian Bureau of Statistics acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. The ABS pays its respects to their cultures and their Elders past, present and emerging.

Australian Statistician

The Hon Michael Sukkar MP

Minister for Housing and Assistant Treasurer

Dear Minister,

I am pleased to present the annual report for the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) for the year ended 30 June 2020.

This report has been prepared in accordance with section 46 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (the PGPA Act). Section 46 of the PGPA Act requires that an annual report be given to the entity's responsible Minister for presentation to the Parliament.

The report includes the ABS' audited financial statements in accordance with subsection 43(4) of the PGPA Act as well as ABS' annual performance statement in accordance with subsection 39(1) of the PGPA Act.

As required by section 10 of the PGPA Act I certify that the ABS has prepared fraud risk assessments and a fraud control plan, that the ABS has fraud prevention, detection, investigation and reporting mechanisms that meet its needs, and that I have taken all reasonable measures to deal with fraud relating to the ABS. There have been no significant instances of fraud identified during the period.

Yours sincerely

Dr David Gruen

21 September 2020

Australian Statistician's review

Introduction

In the time I have been in the role of Australian Statistician, there has been much change and innovation at the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Much of this change has been driven by the ABS response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Australia.

From late February, events overseas suggested that the virus was likely to be enormously disruptive once its spread gathered pace. At that time, the ABS recognised we were in a unique position to provide statistical information to support the important decisions governments and the community would be called upon to make, to respond to the pandemic. With events moving fast, we recognised the enormous benefit for decision makers of having access to high-quality statistical information as close to real time as possible.

This recognition led to a wave of innovation at the ABS. We examined our processes to see what statistical information we could release faster – sometimes in preliminary or provisional form – and what new products we could introduce to fill information gaps. We reassessed our priorities, and moved staff to higher priority tasks. Teams learned from each other, and there was a flowering of ideas on how best to augment the information base, to most effectively support governments and the community in these extraordinary times.

Like all organisations, the ABS rapidly adapted its operations to ensure the health and safety of our staff. Over 2 weeks in March, our corporate areas ably facilitated our move from an organisation with 70 per cent of our staff working in offices to one with 15 per cent working in offices and the rest working from home. This transition occurred at the same time as we were introducing a wider range of statistical outputs. We stopped doing face-to-face interviews to reduce the risk to our staff and people who were continuing to respond to our surveys. In some cases, the loss of face-to-face interviews led to lower survey response rates, necessitating methodological changes to reduce adverse effects on statistical quality.

In addition to responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and the earlier natural disasters (bushfires, storms and floods), the ABS released hundreds of statistical products throughout 2019–20, provided expert advice and assistance to several whole-of-government data initiatives, completed its five-year transformation program, enhanced the information base for policy development and research through data integration, and continued our preparation for the 2021 Census of Population and Housing.

It's an honour to lead one of Australia's great institutions, and I'm proud to hear accolades from people from all walks of life, including our key users, acknowledging the value of the ABS in informing Australia's important decisions. The ABS will continue to work closely with our data users and partners to ensure we provide the information Australia needs.

More information about the ABS' organisational and statistical responses to the COVID-19 pandemic is provided in the Special articles.

Significant achievements in 2019-20 include:

- Releasing 26 new statistical products to help understand the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. These included:
  - A new series of small quick-turnaround surveys to uncover how households and businesses were responding to rapidly evolving events during the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - A new series of preliminary or provisional data releases, based on less than the full sample, to enable users to more rapidly assess evolving trends, including retail trade, overseas travel, and mortality statistics.
  - Publishing near real-time statistics on payroll jobs and wages using anonymised data from over 10 million employees whose employers report to the Australian Taxation Office via the Single Touch Payroll system.
  - Meeting significant demand for bespoke information needs including providing to the Treasury and the Reserve Bank of Australia weekly analysis of retail sales based on supermarket scanner data, and providing confidentialised microdata for Australian businesses though TableBuilder and the DataLab.
  - Acquiring new data sources to improve the quality of official statistics, including banking transactions data from the major Australian banks, mobility data, and energy consumption data.
  - Providing interactive mapping tools to enable users to visualise new and existing data, including data relevant

to national emergencies like the bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Launching the new ABS website in a beta capacity in preparation for its production launch in the second half of 2020.
- Developing new Application Programming Interface (API) services that will enable machine-to-machine interaction with ABS data as soon as it is released.
- Achieving a 96% Yes vote for the ABS Interviewer Enterprise Agreement, and having it in place within a month of the previous agreement's expiry.
- Continuing to expand the availability of modern online forms which make it easier for people to respond to ABS surveys.
- Using behavioural insights to significantly raise the rates of online responses to our household surveys.
- Collaborating with the Australian National University, Macquarie Dictionary and 33 local authors to produce the second edition of the Macquarie Atlas of Indigenous Australia.
- Collaborating with the Bureau of Meteorology to produce Integrated Water Accounts for the Canberra region and winning the Australian Water Association (ACT) Program Innovation Award.
- Developing a prototype of a higher quality business locations dataset to fill a key data gap and better support regional economic analysis.
- Developing a secure Cloud DataLab environment to enable researchers across government and academia to undertake complex analysis more safely and efficiently.
- Deploying skilled ABS staff to other Australian Public Service (APS) agencies and departments, including the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, The Treasury, the Department of Health, and Services Australia, to support a range of projects, including natural disaster response and recovery, and the Australian Government's rapid response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Completion of the ABS Transformation Program

The ABS' five-year business transformation program concluded on 30 June 2020. The program was designed to address significant risks to the production of critical official statistics, and improve outcomes for data providers and statistical users through enhanced services.

The transformation program did not achieve everything it set out to achieve. It did make possible the ABS moving to a modern way of collecting data, facilitated a user-centred approach to sharing information with the public, and provided a base from which to further modernise ABS systems and processes. The transformation program also made possible many of the innovations introduced in the ABS statistical response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to statistical infrastructure innovation, the ABS also improved its effectiveness through enhanced capability, culture, governance structures, and stakeholder engagement.

Key achievements of the program are outlined in the Special articles.

Preparation for the 2021 Census

Preparations for the 2021 Census have stepped up as we move into the operational phase of the five-year cycle. The three key objectives for the 2021 Census are:

- Smooth running: *the Census experience is easy, simple and secure.*
- Strong support: *governments, businesses and the community have confidence in the Census and there is a high level of community participation.*
- High-quality data: *Census data is high-quality and widely used to inform on areas of importance to Australia.*

The ABS has taken a user-centred design approach to ensure the community has crucial input into how the Census operates; and partnered with external experts to deliver key Census services to meet contemporary community expectations.

The ABS is employing robust and adaptable governance mechanisms to manage the Census program, including oversight fora with external members, independent program assurers, and a rigorous approach to program and risk management.

Highlights from 2021 Census planning during 2019–20 include:

- Undertaking Census field testing to build preparedness for key issues that may emerge during the Census process.
- Participating in a rigorous audit process conducted by the Australian National Audit Office.

- Commissioning two independent Privacy Impact Assessments (PIAs) to identify the potential impacts of the Census and administrative data on the privacy of individuals. The results of the PIAs were published, along with the ABS response, on the ABS website on 21 July 2020.
- Conducting significant continency and risk mitigation planning for Census operations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Finalising the content for the 2021 Census and subsequently the 2021 Census household and personal forms.
- Completing comprehensive procurement processes for Census logistical services, including form and letter printing, and transport and mailing of Census materials across Australia.

Trust in the ABS

Providing trusted statistics to inform important decisions is one of the ABS' key objectives. Community trust in the ABS is crucial so that businesses and people have confidence to share their information with us. It is also important that the users of ABS statistics trust the impartiality and quality of the information provided.

In 2020, the ABS commissioned Engine Group to independently run the third cycle of the *Community Trust in ABS Statistics Survey*, previously run in 2010 and 2015. The survey measured the level of trust in the ABS among the general community and informed users of ABS statistics. The general community reported high levels of trust, with 87% indicating that they trust or greatly trust the ABS, and 85% indicating that they trust or greatly trust ABS statistics (up from 81% and 76% in 2015).

Consistent with 2015 results, informed users of ABS statistics reported extremely high levels of trust, with 100% indicating that they trust or greatly trust the ABS as an organisation, and 99% indicating that they trust or greatly trust ABS statistics.

For more information, see https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1014.0

Data integration achievements

Integrating data from different sources significantly enhances its value for analysis, policy and program development, and evaluation and research.

Under the Data Integration Partnership for Australia (DIPA), the ABS enhanced its existing integrated data assets, developed new methodologies, and increased safe access to integrated data, enabling research and policy insights not previously possible. For example, a study linking Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme data with hospital admissions data identified five medications potentially associated with heart failure, and another 122 medications are now under further investigation.

Another project using integrated ABS and Department of Education data examined the capacity of the parents of students at non-government schools to contribute to the recurrent costs of running the school. Focusing on the incomes of the parents, rather than of the families in the community in which the school was situated, enabled a fairer approach to the allocation of school funding. The project was a finalist in the Institute of Public Administration Australia (IPAA) Public Sector Innovation Awards.

Most recently, the ABS has been working with The Treasury, the Australian Tax Office, and the Department of Social Services to integrate data from Single Touch Payroll, JobKeeper, and JobSeeker to enable real time analysis of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the labour market.

More information about key data integration projects is available in case studies in the Annual performance statement.

Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge my predecessor, David W. Kalisch, who led the ABS from 2014 to 2019. David emphasised the need for the ABS to be a strategic partner, and the ABS is now a more resilient and responsive organisation. It is fitting that the Institute for Governance and Policy Analysis at the University of Canberra awarded David the Public Sector Excellence Award in late 2019. These awards recognise outstanding Australian public servants who demonstrate excellence in leadership, policy innovation or policy delivery that leads to positive social or economic outcomes for Australian citizens. I thank David for his service as Australian Statistician.

I acknowledge the commitment, professionalism and capability of the skilled staff of the ABS. In addition, I thank the Australian people for their ongoing support and trust in the ABS; without their participation as respondents to our surveys we would not be able to produce the information that shapes Australia's important decisions.

The ABS works with many national, state and territory agencies that provide us with data, which are critical inputs

The ABS works with many national, state and territory agencies that provide us with data, which are critical inputs to our statistics. This is alongside the work we do with national statistical offices around the world. The contributions of each of these governments and organisations is significant and we thank all these partners.

I thank Professor Gary Banks AO, the Chair of the Australian Statistics Advisory Council, and the Council members for their advice, insights and ongoing support. The ABS is also grateful for the considerable contributions from the members of our specialist advisory groups.

I also acknowledge the support of our Minister throughout the year, the Hon Michael Sukkar MP.

Dr David Gruen
Australian Statistician

8,286,702 visits to the ABS website

2,225,169 downloads of ABS products

493 statistical products released

1,002,650 TableBuilder, Population Census Pro and other data sessions

29,463 calls to the National Information an Referral Service

21,683 emails to the National Information and Referral Service

7,333 DataLab sessions

ABS social media followers – **Total 225,862**

113,345 Facebook

80,619 Twitter

22,367 LinkedIn

8,000 Instagram

1,531 YouTube

As at 30 June 2020 for previous 12 months

Purpose and plan

The ABS purpose is to inform Australia's important decisions by partnering and innovating to deliver relevant, trusted and objective data, statistics and insights.

To achieve its purpose during 2019–20, the ABS has focused on three objectives to meet Australia's contemporary and emerging statistical needs:

- ABS statistics are trusted and used to inform important decisions.
- Partnerships to enable better decisions.
- New statistics to support Australia's emerging priorities.

The ABS is Australia's national statistical agency, providing trusted official statistics on a wide range of economic, social, population, and environmental matters of importance to Australia.

The ABS also has an important leadership role, coordinating statistical activities and collaborating with official bodies in the collection, compilation, analysis, and distribution of statistics. In addition, the ABS provides technical advice and assistance to the Australian and state and territory governments in relation to statistics, the development of standards, and helps to ensure compliance with those standards.

The ABS Corporate Plan outlines the purpose, role, values and culture, objectives, operating environment, capability, risk oversight, and performance framework of the ABS. It can be found on the ABS website at www.abs.gov.au

Responsible Minister

As part of the Treasury portfolio, the ABS maintains a close relationship with The Treasury and the responsible Minister, while acting independently and objectively to provide official statistics and exercise its legislative powers. The Statement of Expectations for the ABS outlines the Australian Government's expectations of the ABS; the corresponding Statement of Intent outlines how the ABS will meet those expectations[1].

During 2019–20, the Hon Michael Sukkar MP, Minister for Housing and Assistant Treasurer, was responsible for the ABS.

Hon Michael Sukkar MP, Minister for Housing and Assistant Treasurer, and Federal Member for Deakin

Footnotes

1. https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/ABS+Statements+of+Expectations+and+Intent?opendocument↩

ABS Portfolio Budget Statement outcome and program

The ABS Portfolio Budget Statement outlines a single outcome and a single program for the agency:

Outcome 1

Decisions on important matters made by governments, business and the broader community are informed by objective, relevant and trusted official statistics produced through the collection and integration of data, its analysis, and the provision of statistical information.

Program 1.1 – Australian Bureau of Statistics

This program contributes to the outcome through delivery of high-quality statistical information to inform Australia's most important issues and through engaging with users within government, business and the community to ensure they have the confidence in the statistical resources available to enable them to make informed decisions.

During 2019–20, the ABS delivered 493 statistical publications, across key economic, population, social, and environment subject matter areas. The key economic and population statistics met the standard set by the International Monetary Fund. The ABS received positive feedback from key users in government, business, and the community for the new insights provided during the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on an independent survey, 99% of informed users (including academics, economists and journalists) trust ABS products[1].

An outline of how the ABS has met its program deliverables for 2019–20 is provided in the Annual performance statement.

The ABS' Portfolio Budget Statement, which outlines the organisation's outcome, program, and deliverables, is available on the Treasury website at https://treasury.gov.au/publication/portfolio-budget-statements-201920 ⧉

Footnotes

1. https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1014.0 ↩

Special article 1: Innovation in times of crisis – the ABS' statistical and organisational response to COVID-19

Early response and planning for the COVID-19 pandemic

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic created a high degree of uncertainty for both the economy and society.

On 28 February the Australian Statistician commissioned the development of strategies to address the emerging risks and needs of key stakeholders from the COVID-19 pandemic. It was clear the community and governments would benefit enormously from access to a wider range of relevant and timely information to respond to the pandemic. At the same time, the ABS put in place measures to protect the health of its staff and survey respondents, while ensuring business continuity.

As part of its response, the ABS:

- Established two taskforces – the first co-ordinated business operations, and supported and communicated with staff; and the second co-ordinated the ABS response to the significant demand for additional information from government agencies.
- Delayed lower priority work and redeployed 127 staff internally to support the new taskforces, deliver new statistical products, and bolster critical functions.
- Conducted a work from home trial in mid-March to test infrastructure and team processes before the subsequent direction that staff should work from home, if possible.

New statistical products to support COVID-19 insights

The first element of ABS' statistical response to the demand for additional information was planning for new, rapid-turnaround surveys. The ABS fast-tracked two rapid-turnaround surveys; the *Business Impacts of COVID-19 Survey* and the *Household Impacts of COVID-19 Survey*—to assess impacts of the pandemic on business, people, and households.

The ABS collaborated closely with stakeholders across government to understand their information needs. To ensure policy relevance, the topics included in the rapid-turnaround surveys were guided by a range of agencies, including the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Treasury, the Reserve Bank of Australia, the Department of Health, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources.

The ABS and the Australian Tax Office (ATO) expedited work to use Single Touch Payroll (STP) to provide close to real time information on changes in jobs and wages as the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions were implemented. The ABS received the first STP file, containing 351 million transactions, on 2 April, and 19 days later published the first *Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages in Australia* release. This product has received overwhelmingly positive feedback from users. For example, the New South Wales Treasury noted:

'The weekly payroll release from the ABS and ATO has been immensely valuable during a period of elevated uncertainty. Having high-quality and timely labour market data is incredibly important for forecasting purposes and to assist government decision making.'

The ABS also produced a number of new preliminary and provisional estimates, providing more timely access to data on the retail industry, international merchandise trade, overseas travel, and mortality statistics. New interactive maps provided information at a regional level about age and health conditions, persons with a disability, unpaid carers, employment, Weekly Payroll Jobs, and housing characteristics. Additional analysis on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic was provided in a range of labour, economic, and social statistics publications. The ABS released Business Longitudinal Analysis Data Environment (BLADE) microdata for financial year 2018–19 in TableBuilder, to support analysis of the Australian economy prior to the pandemic.

By 30 June 2020, the ABS had released 26 new statistical products (59 releases across these products) to help understand impacts of the pandemic. Figure 3.1 shows how some of these products aligned with COVID-19 case numbers and government announcements made in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. Between March and June 2020, the ABS facilitated more than 3,000 DataLab sessions for analysis of detailed data, which was more than

three times the number of sessions held for the same period in 2019. The new statistical products also drove 19.5 million page views of the ABS website between 1 March and 30 June, an increase of 43 per cent from the previous year.

Changes to the statistical work program

In addition to publishing new statistics, the ABS made several changes to the statistical work program due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including:

- Suspending face-to-face household interviewing. The ABS adapted household surveys and field operations to focus on telephone and web data collection, and/or deferred household surveys that required interviewers.
- Revising the work program to reduce reporting required by businesses, while meeting critical information needs about business activity, changes in the economy, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Consulting and agreeing with key stakeholders to pause elements of the statistical work program to deliver pandemic-critical economic and social statistics.[1]
- Reviewing and updating methods, in consultation with the statistical community, to maintain the quality and reliability of statistics, including treatment of policies related to the pandemic at source, seasonal adjustment, and trend estimates.
- Exploring alternative data sources to supplement existing data, such as de-identified transactions data from major banks and using scanner data from major supermarket outlets, to inform official ABS estimates.[2]

Workforce response

The ABS changed its working arrangements to ensure the organisation was able to deliver these critical products and services, while maintaining the health and wellbeing of ABS staff. While all 10 ABS offices remained open, staff were encouraged to work from home where possible. The ABS built on its existing and well-established remote access technology to enable over 85 per cent of staff to work from home at any one time. ABS Offices became COVIDSafe workplaces with approved increased social distancing and hygiene arrangements put in place.[3]

ABS managers implemented changes to individual working arrangements to allow staff to balance work, caring, and home-schooling responsibilities. A range of additional communication and coordination processes were immediately put in place including daily Executive stand ups, daily all staff written communication, and weekly all staff town halls where staff could also ask questions, directly and remotely, of senior staff.

Staff have reported advantages of the new work arrangements, including reduced commute times and feeling more connected as teams changed the ways they worked. Regular staff surveys attested to levels of wellbeing and productivity remaining high throughout the pandemic.

Conclusion

The ABS response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been positively received by staff and a range of external stakeholders and key data users. Stakeholders and users have provided comments on the timeliness, accuracy, and relevance of new products, and praise for the collaborative and flexible approach to responding to the pandemic.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to unfold, the ABS will continue to support its staff and provide data and insights across social and economic dimensions to inform policy discussions and support decision makers.

Figure 3.1: New ABS statistical products, key policy announcements and COVID-19 cases

Footnotes

1. https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/d3310114.nsf/home/ABS%20Media%20Statements%20-%20Statistical%20work%20program%20changes%20in%20response%20to%20COVID-19↩

2. https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/d3310114.nsf/home/ABS%20Media%20Statements%20-%20ABS%20exploring%20new%20data%20sources%20to%20inform%20official%20statistics%20in%20response%20to%20COVID-1↩
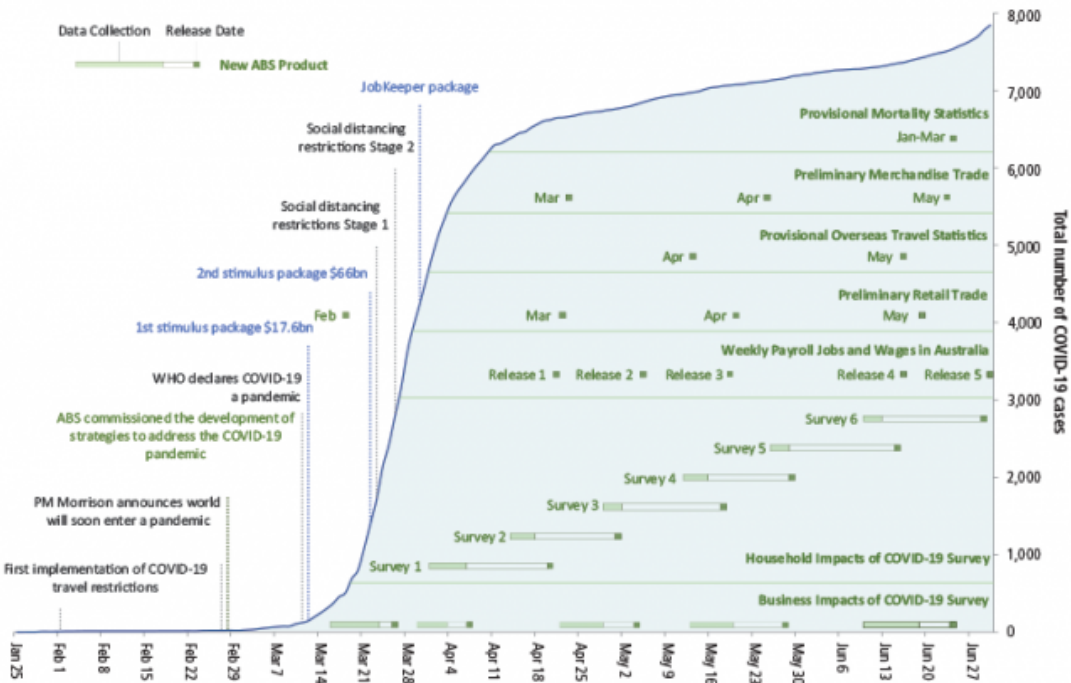
3. Safe Work Australia has produced guidelines on reducing the risk of contracting COVID-19 through workplace transmission. COVIDSafe workplaces are those which have adopted these guidelines which include the requirement to introduce increased hygiene and cleaning practises and enforce social distancing.↩

Special article 2: Statistical Business Transformation Program outcomes

Transforming the ABS for the future

For more than 110 years, the ABS has provided statistics that underpin important decisions in Australia; and continually evolved to meet and anticipate demands.

In 2019–20, the ABS concluded a five-year Transformation program that has seen major improvement across the business and set the ABS up for the next period of advancement. This program overhauled how the ABS undertakes its work, including how the ABS:

- acquires its data
- delivers its statistical products
- engages with stakeholders to inform important decisions
- provides a modern workplace to support staff.

Stakeholders and staff are seeing a range of benefits from these transformation changes.

Prior to 2015, data collection activities were conducted at multiple sites across the country, using complex legacy systems which were difficult to operate, and with escalating costs to maintain. In 2015, the ABS established the National Data Acquisition Centre (NDAC) in Geelong, consolidating these operations on one site and enabling a national approach to data acquisition. The NDAC is now equipped with world class acquisition tools which offer a consistent user experience across household and business collections. These transformation improvements make it easier for data providers to interact with the ABS, by providing more channels to providers and more collection via the web. With the new tools, a survey instrument which used to take three months to develop can now be developed within weeks or days, as was the case for some of the rapid-turnaround surveys created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ABS is also applying the results of behavioural research to better engage with providers of information. In the monthly Labour Force survey, the ABS has seen twice as many people completing the form online, helping to achieve a high response rate of 92%. More efficient collection activities, such as the use of a register of addresses to reduce the likelihood of visiting vacant dwellings, access to Single Touch Payroll information, and a new website launched in September 2020, enables more complete and easily digestible labour market information, including a Key Labour Market Indicators web page.

As society changes, the ABS data collection approach has also needed to modernise beyond traditional surveys; for example, gathering data from websites using web scraping and obtaining scanner data direct from major supermarket outlets. These improvements have expanded the Consumer Price Index (CPI) collection from 100,000 items to well over one million, and the ABS is now able to provide new data and insights on both consumer behaviour and price.

The ABS holds highly valuable and detailed data assets covering a range of statistical areas including economic, social, industry, environment, and more. In the past, access to detailed data, called microdata, was tightly restricted. Use of microdata was limited by the complex file types and systems used to control and protect microdata. In late 2016, the ABS as part of its transformation, developed DataLab as a way for users to access microdata remotely, with files that could be analysed with standard software. These transformation improvements mean that researchers and organisations undertaking projects with public value can now have improved but safe access to microdata. This enables greater value and insights to be drawn from existing data assets to support better decision making.

Balancing data security with timely access is an ongoing challenge. Previously, key media partners were invited to secure meetings and given access to data to distribute to their head office by phone at release time. In 2018, the ABS implemented a machine-to-machine Application Programming Interface (API) that sends key numbers to users instantly upon release. This transformed approach has removed significant delays to accessing critical market-moving data and provides a faster, more convenient, and highly secure way to access the ABS' information.

The ABS has also transformed its approach to workplaces. With a workforce comprising almost 3,000 personnel in

10 offices across Australia delivering a broad program of statistical and corporate functions, the organisation has taken an enabling approach to flexible working arrangements. Attracting and retaining quality staff has become a key priority for delivering the work program. To support this, the ABS has transformed its capabilities to support teleworking, part-time hours, compressed work weeks, and job sharing. Information and communication technology solutions have been overhauled to focus on mobility and security. The combination of good design and flexibility has allowed the ABS to lower its footprint across all offices by at least 20% which has lowered operating costs, and importantly meant the ABS had the agility to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

While the ABS has reached the end of this transformation journey, the quest for excellence continues. The ABS is committed to continuing to improve how people provide their data, how this data is processed, and how the ABS enables greater access to the valuable information it produces.

Figure 3.2: Transformation goals and achievements

Goals | Transformation

Our Goal
Environment
We collaborate with stakeholders to understand and respond better to current and future external environment.

Our Journey
The ABS has improved ways of working with stakeholders to deliver the information they need.

Our Goal
Strategy
Our strategies enable rigorous statistics, strong partnerships and effective use of resources.

Our Journey
The ABS has combined different data sets to generate new statistical insights without requiring more effort from households, businesses or stakeholders.

Our Goal
Governance
Our governance supports responsive decision making, prioritisation and management of enterprise risk.

Our Journey
Risk management has matured across the ABS, ensuring projects are better aligned with corporate priorities.

Our Goal
People
We have a diverse, expert, motivated and agile workforce.

Our Journey
Our workforce has become more representative of our communities with flexible work arrangements to support a variety of needs.

Our Goal
Culture
We are high performing, aligned, engaged, innovative and accountable.

Our Journey
The ABS has increased its focus on developing high performance among staff to meet new demands.

Our Goal
Infrastructure
Our infrastructure is effective, efficient and adaptable.

Our Journey
The ABS has developed smoother, more customer-focused ways to allow people and organisations to provide and use ABS information while laying down foundations to meet future needs.

Introductory Statement

As the accountable authority for the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), I present the 2019–20 Annual Performance Statement of the ABS, as required under paragraph 39(1)(a) and (b) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act). In my opinion, based on advice from ABS management and the Audit Committee, this performance statement accurately reflects the performance of the ABS against the performance criteria included in its Portfolio Budget Statement (PBS) and ABS Corporate Plan, and that it fully complies with subsection 39(2) of the PGPA Act[1].

Signed

Dr. David Gruen

Australian Statistician

Footnotes

1. The ABS Portfolio Budget Statement is contained in Budget 2019–20 – Portfolio Budget Statements 2019–20 – Budget Related Paper No. 1.16 – Treasury Portfolio, https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-04/pbs_2019-20_combined.pdf↩

ABS purpose

The ABS purpose is to inform Australia's important decisions by partnering and innovating to deliver relevant, trusted and objective data, statistics and insights.

Results

This Statement presents the results against the performance criteria from the ABS PBS 2019–20 and performance measures from the ABS Corporate Plan 2019–20 for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020. All results relate to one program in the Treasury PBS: *1.1 Australian Bureau of Statistics.*[1][2]

Outcome 1

Decisions on important matters made by governments, business and the broader community are informed by objective, relevant and trusted official statistics produced through the collection and integration of data, its analysis, and the provision of statistical information.

Program 1.1 – Australian Bureau of Statistics

This program contributes to the outcome through delivery of high-quality statistical information to inform Australia's most important issues and through engaging with users within government, business and the community to ensure they have the confidence in the statistical resources available to enable them to make informed decisions.

Summary of results by Objective

The overall results for each Objective were:

- Objective 1: two measures were achieved; one measure was substantially achieved.
- Objective 2: two measures were achieved; one measure was substantially achieved.
- Objective 3: both measures were achieved

Measure scale

The following measure scale was used to assess each individual method and measure:

Achieved	The target/s was/were fully achieved.
Substantially achieved	Two thirds or more of the target/s was/were achieved.
Partially achieved	Less than two thirds of the target/s was/were achieved.
Not achieved	No target results were evident.

Footnotes

1. https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/1005.02019-20?OpenDocument↵
2. Budget 2019–20 – Portfolio Budget Statements 2019–20 – Budget Related Paper No. 1.16 – Treasury Portfolio, https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-04/pbs_2019-20_combined.pdf↵

Objective 1

ABS statistics are trusted and used to inform important decisions[1]

ABS data informs important decisions made by government, business and the community. It underpins sound fiscal and monetary policy decisions and informs the delivery of programs and services vital to the health and wellbeing of the people of Australia including in relation to health, education, the cost of living, the environment and energy, housing and infrastructure. ABS data also supports a functioning democracy, with its data contributing to fair electoral boundaries and informed community debate.

The Government's Statement of Expectations requires the ABS to deliver services that are timely, relevant, responsive and of the highest integrity and quality.

Performance against this objective was assessed by three performance measures:

- **1.1 Community trust** = average level of trust in the ABS and ABS statistics
- **1.2 Use of data products and services** = number of customers using ABS data products or services
- **1.3 International compliance** = ABS statistics meet standards for National and International Accounts, Labour Force, Unemployment, Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Estimates of Resident Population

For 2019–20, two of these measures were assessed as **achieved**, and one measure assessed as **substantially achieved**. *Measure 1.2 Use of data products and services* was rated as substantially achieved on the basis that one of the targets could not be assessed. For *Measure 1.1 Community trust,* the target relating to *100% of statistics are released free of significant error* was assessed as substantially achieved. Further explanation for these ratings is provided below.

Outcomes
ABS data is valued as a national resource and trusted by key data users Quality official statistics are made available in a timely manner to inform important government, business and household decisions

Measure 1.1 Community trust = average level of trust in the ABS and ABS statistics
Overall status: Achieved

Context

A high level of trust in the ABS underpins the confidence of households, businesses and other data suppliers to provide the vital information needed to produce Australia's official statistics. Without trust in both the institution and the statistics produced, the ABS could not maintain its high levels of survey response rates; many of which are the envy of national statistical offices in other nations.

Maintaining trust ensures that ABS statistics are both high-quality and cost-effective. This in turn ensures that they continue to be the preferred evidence base for Australia's important decisions.

Community trust in the quality, timeliness and integrity of ABS statistics remains high. In 2020, the ABS commissioned an external and independent research agency (Engine Group) to conduct the quinquennial *Community Trust in ABS Statistics Survey* (CTASS).[2] Its purpose is to measure the current levels of trust in the ABS and its products among the general community and informed users of ABS statistics.

Method 1: Community trust surveys	**Target 1:** At least 85% average level of trust in the ABS and ABS statistics
Status: Achieved	

Results

For the general community respondents in the 2020 CTASS who had heard of the ABS:

- 87% trust or greatly trust the ABS
- 6% distrust the ABS
- 2% greatly distrust the ABS
- 85% trust or greatly trust ABS products
- 10% distrust ABS products
- 3% greatly distrust ABS products.

For the informed users (comprised of academics, economists and journalists) respondents in the 2020 CTASS who had heard of the ABS:

- 85% greatly trust the ABS
- 15% trust the ABS
- 71% greatly trust ABS products
- 28% trust ABS products.

These results indicate that the target for this measure was met or exceeded.

Analysis

Community trust in the ABS is measured every five years via the CTASS. This survey was first conducted in 2010 and was repeated in 2015. In the CTASS, respondents who indicate that they have heard of the ABS are asked how much trust they hold in the ABS as an institution and the trust they have in the ABS' statistical products.

The results of the 2020 CTASS, undertaken in late March to early May 2020, show that trust in the ABS, and its products, has increased since the survey was last conducted in 2015. Whilst in 2015, 81% of general community respondents trusted or greatly trusted the ABS, by 2020 the level of trust had increased to 87%. Similarly, trust in the ABS' products has also increased over time: 85% of general community respondents indicated that they trust or greatly trust ABS statistics in 2020, compared to 76% in 2015.

There was near complete agreement among general community respondents (96%) that "Statistics produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on our economy and society are important to understand our country". These respondents were also in agreement that future ABS statistics would provide useful (91%) and accurate (83%) information.

General community respondents' trust in the ABS (87%) was higher than their trust in the different levels of government, with 68% of respondents trusting the Australian Government, 71% their state/territory government, and 67% their local council.

Community trust in the ABS was independently measured by the Australian National University (ANU). In May 2020, the ANU assessed changes to community attitudes towards privacy and data security during the COVID-19 pandemic. The *Data trust and data privacy in the COVID-19 period report* also found the level of trust in the ABS to be higher than state and territory governments and the Commonwealth government.[3]

The 2020 CTASS also surveyed informed users, comprised of academics, economists and journalists. Of these informed users, 100% trusted the ABS as an institution (85% had a great deal of trust, and 15% tended to trust) with trust in ABS products also very high (71% had a great deal of trust and 28% tended to trust). Amongst informed users, product and institutional trust remained relatively unchanged over time.

The collection period for the 2020 CTASS occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is likely that new pandemic-related releases, and an increased presence of the ABS in the media during this time, had some impact on the results of the 2020 CTASS.

Method 2: Number of statistics released free from significant errors	**Target 2:** 100% of statistics are released free of significant error
Status: Substantially achieved	

Results

For the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020, 98% of statistics were released free of significant error.

Analysis

The results for the full year of 2019–20 reflect very high standards in relation to the quality of statistical releases.

Releases with a significant error (also known as 'high level release incidents') are defined as errors in indicators of national or state significance where there is a possibility a user may have been misled.

Between July 2019 and June 2020, the ABS published 493 statistical releases on the ABS website.[4] Ten releases were defined as containing a significant error.

No errors impacted the headline figure of market sensitive data. Identified corrections were made as quickly as possible after the release and users alerted to changes on the website. For example, in June 2020, a section of commentary in the Government Finance Statistics publication was re-published to correct an error referencing current price estimates rather than chain volume figures contained in a related table. The error was identified and rectified almost immediately – within 90 minutes of the publication of the incorrect information.

Method 3: Percentage of statistical releases published on the advertised date	**Target 3:** At least 95% of statistical releases are published on the advertised date
Status: Achieved	

Results

For the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020, 99% of statistical releases were published on the advertised date.

Analysis

The results for the full year of 2019–20 reflect very high standards in relation to the timeliness of statistical releases. The ABS maintains a public facing calendar to provide users with the schedule for statistical releases. There were five releases that did not meet their originally advertised dates. None of these releases were major economic indicators.

The high proportion of on time publications has been consistent with the annual target and therefore represents maintenance of community trust in the ABS' ability to provide timely information.

Measure 1.2 Use of data products and services = number of customers using ABS data products or services
Overall status: Substantially achieved

Context

The ABS is a trusted source of information, providing access to its users to enable research and evaluation of public policy issues without compromising privacy and confidentiality. An ongoing challenge for the ABS is how to enable access to more detailed and bespoke datasets that meet specific stakeholders' needs that cannot be met through publicly available information.

Safe and secure access to confidentialised data is essential to maximise the public value of data. ABS data products and services provide valuable and timely insights, and support analysis across a range of economic and social dimensions to inform policy makers, businesses and other sectors of the community.

During 2019–20, TableBuilder and DataLab products were the primary platforms for users to access ABS microdata. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the ABS maintained the continuity of these products to satisfy the demand for the most up-to-date statistical information. Access to these products has allowed users to measure the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and support an evidenced-based approach to response and recovery.

Method: Counts of customers per product or service each year	**Targets:** 1. At least 6,000 DataLab sessions each year 2. At least 8,000 new TableBuilder registrations each year 3. At least 1,300 requests for customised data each year

	customised data each year

Status: Substantially achieved

Results

For the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020, targets 1 and 3 were met. Target 2 could not be assessed due to internal system limitations.[5]

Analysis

The results for 2019–20 met two out of the three targets for the use of ABS data products and services.

Demand for customised data continued to grow as a result of improved awareness of the services that the ABS provides, as well as increased demand for customised information to understand and support disaster impacts and relief, and a consistently strong demand for customised trade data.

DataLab use continued to reflect the growing demand within government and the academic community for access to detailed microdata, including integrated assets. During the COVID-19 pandemic the ABS released a number of new datasets in DataLab, including monthly merchandise trade (import and export) files and Internet access at home. This contributed to an increase in DataLab sessions between March and June 2020, with 24 new pandemic-based projects initiated in the DataLab.

The improved access to a broad range of critical data through these products and services has delivered a valuable evidence base for important decisions; both pandemic-related and for ongoing policy development and research.

Measure 1.3 International compliance = ABS statistics meet standards for National and International Accounts, Labour Force, Unemployment, Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Estimates of Resident Population

Overall status: Achieved

Context

The ABS has continued to produce key economic and population statistics with appropriate coverage, frequency and timeliness as independently assessed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) against the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS).[6] Achievement against this standard is the ABS' overarching performance criterion from its PBS.

The integrity and credibility of the ABS are built on the ABS' continued provision of quality statistics that meet expected standards. The ABS is required by legislation to meet particular standards in its products, as well as assure the Australian public that its products can effectively inform new legislation and policy.

Adherence to the independent IMF standard engenders a high degree of trust in ABS statistics. The results of the IMF assessment also provide users with the ability to objectively compare Australia's compliance with that of international counterparts. ABS official statistics adhere to published Australian and international standards which are available on the ABS website.

The ABS undertakes an annual self-assessment of its compliance with the SDDS. The self-assessment is published on the IMF website.[7] This measure has therefore been assessed using information published on the IMF website.

Method: Compliance with International Monetary Fund (IMF) Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)	**Target:** 100% of in-scope collections meet IMF SDDS

Status: Achieved

Results

- The IMF assessed Australia's data provision as 100% compliant with the SDDS standards across all categories.[8]
- Australia's data provision was assessed as adequate for 2019, according to the IMF publication 'Australia: 2019 Article IV Consultation' released in March 2020.[9]

Analysis

Australia has subscribed to the SDDS since 1996, and maintained its adherence and compliance to these standards since that time, including publication of relevant information on the IMF's Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board.

Australia has implemented all the recommendations of the first phase of the G-20 Data Gaps Initiative (DGI), with the exception of semi-annual reporting of Coordinated Portfolio Investment Survey (CPIS) data. Australia also participates in the second phase of the DGI.

Compliance relates directly to the ABS' ability to release key economic and population statistics with appropriate coverage, frequency and timeliness. These core statistics include national and international accounts, labour force, CPI, balance of payments (BOP), and population estimates.

The 100% compliance with the SDDS standards for 2019 included the ABS availing itself of flexibility options within the standard: a periodicity option for production indices, the CPI, and the production price indices; and timeliness flexibility for production indices.[10] [11][12]

Regarding CPI periodicity, Australia is the only G20 country that does not produce the index monthly. While the ABS is taking steps to develop data sources and methodologies to enhance the accuracy of the CPI and pave the way for improved periodicity, at this time and following consultation with stakeholders, the ABS is not actively pursuing the matter.

There continue to be instances where the ABS exceeds the requirements for other categories. Labour force statistics which are required on a quarterly basis under the SDDS are released by the ABS on a monthly basis. Similarly, population data, which is required on an annual basis by the SDDS, is released by the ABS on a quarterly basis. In addition, the ABS' timeliness for BOP and international investment position (IIP) exceeds the SDDS requirement, as does the quarterly release of general government data.[13]

Footnotes

1. ABS Corporate Plan 2019—20, pg. 11, https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/1005.02019-20?OpenDocument↩
2. Trust in ABS and ABS Statistics, ABS cat.no. 1014.0, https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1014.0↩
3. https://csrm.cass.anu.edu.au/sites/default/files/docs/2020/7/Data_trust_and_data_privacy_in_the_COVID-19_period.pdf↩
4. A statistical release is any product released on the ABS website that has a catalogue number and a reference period, including statistical publications, information papers, research papers, classifications and standards. Excludes the reissue of any product, and corporate documents such as annual reports, the corporate plan and forward work program.↩
5. Due to internal system limitations, the ABS was unable to report against target 2 for 2019-20. It is estimated that since 2012, there has been an average of 10,000 new TableBuilder registrations each year.↩
6. https://dssbb.imf.org/sdds↩
7. https://dsbb.imf.org/sdds/country/AUS/summary-of-observance↩
8. https://dsbb.imf.org/sdds/country/AUS/summary-of-observance↩
9. https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/CR/Issues/2020/03/03/Australia-2019-Article-IV-Consultation-Press-Release-Staff-Report-and- Statement-by-the-49241↩
10. The SDDS sets out standards for how frequently data should be released (periodicity) and how quickly it should be released (timeliness). A flexibility option within the SDDS means that the ABS may vary its periodicity or timeliness for select collections and still be assessed as compliant with the standard.↩
11. Australia compiles and disseminates quarterly data rather than monthly data as required.↩
12. Australia disseminates the index no later than one quarter after the reference quarter and not within six weeks as required. ↩
13. BOP and IIP statistics are released approximately two months after the end of the reference quarter.↩

Objective 2

Partnerships to enable better decisions[1]

The Government expects the ABS to maintain robust, effective and collaborative working partnerships with other producers of official statistics in Australia to ensure the proper functioning of the national statistical system.

The ABS is committed to maintaining effective working partnerships with other Commonwealth and state/territory agencies, the ABS' counterparts in overseas jurisdictions, and other official statistical bodies to ensure the proper functioning of Australia's statistical governance framework, and to expand and improve the quality and awareness of statistical services available to governments and the community.

The ABS partners with other agencies through collaborations, strategic out-postings of staff, and participation in decision-making fora.

Performance against this objective was assessed by three performance measures:

- **2.1 External fora** = ABS membership of key external decision-making fora or advisory boards and outcomes of participation
- **2.2 Stakeholder health** = average stakeholder rating of the value of their relationship with the ABS and level of engagement of the public through social media channels
- **2.3 Partnerships** = outcomes of projects undertaken in collaboration with external customers

For 2019–20, measures 2.1 and 2.3 were assessed as **achieved**, and measure 2.2 was assessed as **substantially achieved**. Both targets used to assess measure 2.2 were assessed as substantially achieved. Further explanation related to the rating for measure 2.2 is provided below.

Outcome

ABS and key data users collaborate to improve Australia's national data infrastructure in priority areas

Measure 2.1 External fora = ABS membership of key external decision-making fora or advisory boards and outcomes of participation

Overall status: Achieved

Context

The ABS partners with other government agencies, academics and community representatives through its membership on external decision-making and advisory fora. The ABS collaborates and shares its expertise as part of its leadership role in the national data system, and its commitment to maximising the use of public data to support improved policy development and delivery of government services. A strong focus on collaboration with its partners has enabled the ABS to draw not only on their understandings and expertise, but to co-design new statistical solutions that provide greater insights.

Continued involvement in key external decision-making and advisory fora allows the ABS to influence important decisions, share expertise, and maintain a contemporary view of its stakeholders' key priorities. In turn, stakeholders gain improved insight and access to available data, as well as ABS data capability to support decisions on increasingly complex and multifaceted public policy challenges.

Method: Case studies of impact of ABS membership on key external fora   **Target:** Not applicable

Status: Achieved

Results

See Case Study 1 (Measure 2.1).

Analysis

One way the ABS demonstrates leadership within the public sector data system is through the influence the ABS has in shaping direction at cross-departmental fora. The case study provides insight into the ABS' contribution to the Data Integration Partnership for Australia (DIPA) Board and the Deputy Secretaries' Data Group (DSDG). The DSDG and DIPA Board are two strategic fora where ABS expertise is called upon to provide material, insights and critical considerations to advance national data infrastructure.

From 2020–21 onwards, this measure will no longer be reported externally as a part of the ABS Annual Performance Statement, however maintaining an influential and useful role on external strategic fora remains a priority for the ABS to continue enabling better decisions.

Measure 2.2 Stakeholder health = average stakeholder rating of the value of their relationship with the ABS and level of engagement of the public through social media channels

Overall status: Substantially achieved

Context

Collaboration and partnerships remained a focus for the ABS in 2019–20. The value a stakeholder places on their relationship with the ABS is a direct reflection of the ABS' ability to understand and address partner priorities. The ABS has maintained a network of senior executive Relationship Managers who nurture relationships with key external stakeholders to advance the data system.

The people of Australia are increasingly opting to engage with government through digital channels. In this digital-first environment, the ABS has stepped up its engagement across digital platforms as a means of communicating with a wide range of key data users and the general public. Growth in social media presence builds awareness of the ABS brand and introduces Australians to the important role performed by the ABS.

The COVID-19 pandemic tested the robustness of the ABS' relationships with a broad range of stakeholders. In this situation, the ABS received feedback that its commitment to consultation and responsive engagement has improved its partners' ability to respond effectively to the pandemic. It was also during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic that the ABS was due to undertake its annual survey of stakeholders. With the CTASS already underway, the ABS chose to replace the survey as a measure of stakeholder satisfaction with a case study focused on stakeholder sentiment regarding the ABS' response to the COVID-19 pandemic demands.

Method 1: Survey of a range of stakeholders

Target: Maintain or improve previous stakeholder survey scores

Status: Substantially achieved

Results

The ABS did not conduct a survey of stakeholders to measure the level of satisfaction in their relationship with the ABS. This was largely due to the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

A qualitative picture of stakeholder engagement and satisfaction can, however, be gleaned from the increased activity on ABS dissemination channels and the overwhelmingly positive response of stakeholders to the new timely statistics produced by the ABS to inform governments' economic and health response (see [Case Study 2 (Measure 2.2)](#)).

Analysis

The COVID-19 pandemic, and the restrictions introduced by governments in response, generated enormous disruption to the Australian economy and society. Central to governments' response to the crisis was the need for timely and relevant information.

The ABS was in a unique position to provide enormous value by collecting and publishing near real-time information about how individuals and businesses were responding to the rapidly changing circumstances. The ABS responded to the pandemic by: engaging with key data users across Government to understand their needs; re-setting priorities; managing stakeholder expectations; and delivering additional and more up-to-date data on the impacts of the pandemic.

The case study uses feedback received directly from stakeholders during the early period of the pandemic

response to demonstrate the satisfaction of these stakeholders with ABS' engagement and responsiveness.

Method 2: Social media engagement	**Targets:** 1. Maintain 3% rate of social media engagement* 2. Increase the number of ABS social media followers by 7%** 3. Increase in impressions/posts by 8%***
Status: Substantially achieved	

* Social media engagement: engagement is any form of interaction with the ABS brand on social media. Likes, comments, and shares are all forms of engagement.

** Social media followers: number of people that follow ABS social media channels i.e. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn.

*** Impressions/post: impressions are the number of times content is displayed, no matter if it was clicked or not. A post refers to any social media status update, photo, or video, or an item shared on a blog or forum. This figure is a ratio of impressions to posts.

Results

For the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020, targets 1 and 2 were met. Target 3 was not met.[2]

Analysis

The ABS monitors the level of public engagement through social media channels to gain insight into stakeholder health, and gauge the level of awareness and interest of digital consumers in the ABS and its data. In a time when the use of digital media is rapidly increasing, social media channels represent a growing area of importance for demonstrating effective engagement with stakeholders.

The results for 2019–20 showed some variability, with two of the three targets achieved. Some posts had a significant impact on the final results e.g. one 2019 post received over 3,000 likes, more likes than any other in the history of ABS social media presence. As a result, there was an increase in impressions per post from July to December 2019.

The ABS' initial COVID-19 pandemic-related posts performed well, generating high engagement numbers and increased followers due to interest in new and more frequent statistical releases. There was a related decrease in the visibility of the ABS' regular social media posts due to a focus on communicating the latest COVID-19 pandemic statistics. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the ABS adopted a more serious tone for its social media content, which is likely to have resulted in an overall drop in impressions per post.

In response to a lower ratio of impressions to posts, the ABS will continue to use popular data to drive more interest and engagement from the community; this will include the development of more visual content in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Overall, it was a generally positive year for the ABS' social media presence, indicating an appropriate level of stakeholder health in this area.

Measure 2.3 Partnerships = outcomes of projects undertaken in collaboration with external customers
Overall status: Achieved

Context

Data integration facilitates opportunities to collaborate and build partnerships to inform policy and research needs. During 2019–20, the ABS has improved its stakeholder partnerships through collaboration to deliver new insights, as well as sharing expertise and innovations to generate greater public value from data. These partnerships have enabled opportunities for a range of data integration projects, leading to improved information for the benefit of the Australian community.

In addition to the initiatives stemming from the DIPA work program, the ABS also worked closely with Commonwealth and state/territory governments, the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) and academic researchers to ensure statistical projects support key policy priorities outside of DIPA.

ensure statistical projects support key policy priorities outside of DIPA.

Together with a variety of partners, the ABS has continued to harness the value of public data to create statistical products that meet the demands of Australian decision makers.

Method: Case studies showing outcomes/direct realisable benefits to the partner and to the ABS within the current year	**Target:** Not applicable

Status: Achieved

Results

See [Case Study 3 (Measure 2.3)](#) and [Case Study 4 (Measure 2.3)](#).

Analysis

Case study 3 provides insights into the ABS' partnership with Swinburne University and the use of Business Longitudinal Analysis Data Environment (BLADE). Swinburne University has partnered with a number of Commonwealth and state government departments to inform research that supports government policy decisions and understanding of what drives business to improve performance.

Case study 4 showcases the outcomes of a partnership between the ABS, the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), the Department of Health, the University of Adelaide, Geoscience Australia, and the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE). This cross- portfolio collaboration involved an analysis of data from the Multi-Agency Data Integration Project (MADIP) to improve understanding of those Australians most at risk from heatwaves.

Footnotes

1. ABS Corporate Plan 2019–20, pg. 12, https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/1005.02019-20?OpenDocument↵
2. Data used to assess these targets was extracted on 7 August 2020 – the ABS delays the collation of these data until at least one month following the end of the reference period to ensure results capture interaction with social media content released in late June.↵

Objective 3

New statistics to support Australia's emerging priorities[1]

The Government expects the ABS to engage with data users to ensure that the range of data collected and statistics produced by the ABS is appropriate to their needs, and to consult stakeholders regarding significant changes to the ABS' work program.

Australia's data is a national resource providing significant benefits for citizens, business and governments. This resource can be used to make informed decisions and develop innovative products and services across all sectors.

The ABS draws on its understanding of its stakeholders' needs and its specialist expertise to produce new insights to solve complex or emerging policy problems and service delivery challenges.

Performance against this objective was assessed by two performance measures:

- **3.1: New statistics created** = number of enduring integrated statistical assets and new statistics created through integration and analysis
- **3.2: Stakeholder impact** = new statistics or methods are used by customers to inform high priority areas or new policy directions

For 2019–20, both of these measures were assessed as **achieved**.

Outcome

The ABS works with stakeholders to build data capability and understanding about key emerging issues for Australia

Measure 3.1 New statistics created = number of enduring integrated statistical assets and new statistics created through integration and analysis

Overall status: Achieved

Context

Administrative and big data is information collected by governments or other organisations to implement their programs and deliver services. Data integration and increased sharing of administrative and big data has the potential to deliver new statistical insights to address current and emerging policy questions across a wide range of economic, social and environmental issues. Data integration can provide insights into the effectiveness of social intervention, provide evidence to support more effective economic policy decisions, and inform place-based analyses and outcomes.

The Government's DIPA program has provided critical funding for the ABS to develop integrated data assets for use by governments, business and the research community. The ABS and its partners have used these assets to undertake projects for policy departments and researchers to inform cross-cutting public policy issues. Improved integration of data across the Australian Public Service (APS) has helped guide policy and program implementation to support Australia's short term and emerging priorities as demonstrated by the outcomes achieved through signature research projects.

Method: Review of delivery status of signature research projects to produce new statistics to support policy

Target: Delivery of signature research hub projects

Status: Achieved

Results

Of the six signature research hub projects, three were assessed as achieved (projects b, c and e), two were assessed as substantially achieved (projects a and f), and one was assessed as partially achieved (project d). The projects were:

1. Non-market health care and education outputs for economic and productivity measurement
2. New annual and quarterly Labour Account
3. Potential impacts from globalisation and the digital economy on economic statistics
4. Outcomes for job seekers who have left employment services programs in remote Australia
5. Effects of drought on Australian farms
6. Migration's impact on Australian society

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ABS delivered 26 new statistical products to help the community understand the impact, equating to 59 releases on the ABS website.

Collectively, these achievements justify a status of 'achieved' for this measure.

Analysis

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the ABS' ability to deliver on a number of signature research hub projects as the ABS and partner agencies adjusted their priorities to respond to the pandemic.

In its response to the pandemic, however, the ABS actually produced a range of new statistics to address a broad range of information needs, including:

- *Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages* – experimental weekly estimates on the impact of the pandemic on employee jobs and wages, sourced from Australian Taxation Office (ATO) Single Touch Payroll (STP) data.
- Two new rapid-response surveys to collect information on the impact of the spread of the pandemic and the societal and government responses to that spread:
  1. The *Business Impacts of COVID-19 Survey* which measures the incidence and nature of impacts of the pandemic on businesses.
  2. The *Household Impacts of COVID-19 Survey* which provides snapshots of how households have responded to the changing social and economic environment, including information about changes to job status, stimulus packages, personal and household stressors, and concerns about physical and mental health, precautions taken and lifestyle changes.
- Preliminary and provisional releases, additional analysis in existing statistical products (e.g. Labour Force, Overseas Arrivals and Departures), and new interactive maps examining the geographic distribution of a range of social and economic characteristics.

a. Non-market health care and education outputs for economic and productivity measurement.

In 2019–20, the ABS Economic Research Hub commenced a project to enhance measures of output in the non-market sector industries of health and education. A roadmap for the project was published on 18 September 2019, shortly followed by a subsequent paper outlining initial progress towards enhancing estimates of six non-market service areas: hospital services; ambulance services; disability services; aged care services; school education; and university education.[23]

In 2020, the focus has been enhancing measurement of non-market activity in the areas of hospitals, schools and universities. Some elements of the project were not completed in 2019–20 due to changed priorities resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The outcomes of this work will be published in research papers early in 2020–21, along with an additional paper explaining the conceptual and measurement challenges of measuring non-market output. The outcomes of this work will enhance the quality of the annual national accounts by providing more accurate measures of output in key areas such as health care and education.

b. New annual and quarterly Labour Account

Throughout 2019–20, an extensive range of additions and enhancements were made to the Labour Account and its outputs. These included the extension of time series from 2010 back to 1994, the addition of new series (e.g. Multiple Job Holders, and Filled Jobs in the Private and Public Sectors), and the introduction of a range of new economic indicators (e.g. the Proportion of Vacant Jobs). These changes significantly enhanced the utility of the data by extending the range of available information and allowing greater analysis of related information, such as the number of secondary jobs and the people who hold them.

With the addition of sector information, the data from the Labour Account is now the best source of information on jobs in the private and public sectors over time. This information provides labour market analysts with a much better indication of the relative contribution to net job creation across the sectors than has ever been possible.

c. Potential impacts from globalisation and the digital economy on economic statistics

In 2019, the ABS Economic Research Hub completed a project to produce annual digital activity estimates. Digital activities have grown rapidly and become an important contributor to economies around the world. This rapid shift has increased the demand for statistical insights into digital activities in Australia for analytical and policy purposes. In response, the project produced experimental annual estimates of the size of digitalised activity within the Australian economy, and an indication of how fast digital activities are growing relative to the national economy and other industries.

The new methodology produced a tailored piece of analysis at low cost, with potential applicability to other topics of interest, such as the contribution of arts and culture to the economy. In February 2020, the ABS released a feature article updating and extending measures of the size, growth and nature of digital activity in Australia for the period from 2011–12 to 2017–18.[4] The information featured in this article is expected to be updated annually as part of the annual National Accounts publication.

For further information, see Case Study 5 (Measure 3.2).

d. Outcomes for job seekers who have left employment services programs in remote Australia

This 2019–20 DIPA project was led by the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) in collaboration with the Central Analytics Hub in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. The project aimed to understand how people are faring after they cease participating in employment services programs in remote Australia.

The project will not be completed within the expected timeframe. The employment services data to be provided by the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) has been delayed to ensure adherence to privacy requirements. The COVID-19 pandemic and associated resource constraints have also added to the delay. The NIAA will continue with work on the integrated administrative data in 2020–21.

e. Effects of drought on Australian farms

In partnership with the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES), part of the DAWE, the ABS undertook a project in 2019–20 to develop a better understanding of the effects of climate variability on the productivity and profitability of Australian farms.

The project had two distinct stages: 1) development of an extended series of agricultural data that could be matched to climate data and other data in the BLADE; and 2) development of models that explain the relationship between climate and production on Australian farms.

The data building stage included the development of the Farm-level Longitudinal Agricultural Dataset (FLAD), which combined data from an extended series of agricultural census and agricultural survey data. This work was completed in late 2019. The FLAD data was then linked with publicly available climate data and integrated into the BLADE, allowing users to develop new insights on the effects of climate variability and climate change on farms using a range of economic and climate data. This work was completed in early 2020.

Outputs from this project will help to provide improved delivery of government services, helping to better target policy interventions to farmers. In the longer term, the datasets will also help to understand the role that agriculture plays in Australia's regional communities from environmental, economic and social sustainability perspectives. With ABS assistance, ABARES is now using the FLAD and BLADE datasets to explore the impact of climate on agricultural production in Australia.

For further information, see Case Study 6 (Measure 3.2).

f. Migration's impact on Australian society

This 2019–20 DIPA project was led by the Central Analytics Hub in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C). The project is utilising MADIP and BLADE data to evaluate how international migration has impacted and shaped Australia. It aims to contribute to the evidence base for a broad range of policies, including migration program planning, migration labour market rules, and Commonwealth revenue management.

Migration data provided to the ABS by the Department of Home Affairs has been linked to the MADIP data asset. Analytical datasets were made available to approved users from PM&C, The Treasury, Department of Home Affairs (DHA), and the ABS via the ABS DataLab. DHA has completed its analysis for this project. PM&C have requested an extension of the project until the end of September 2020, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic impacts on PM&C's progress on its analytical work.

Measure 3.2 Stakeholder impact = new statistics or methods

are used by customers to inform high priority areas or new policy directions

Overall status: Achieved

Context

A number of ground-breaking projects using new ABS statistics and methods have contributed directly to Government policy decisions, including assessment of economic issues. Examples include improving the allocation of school funding, informing a better understanding of low wage growth, and assessment of health outcomes. The production of these new statistics and methods has enabled policy makers to respond to a range of challenges in the economy and broader environment.

In addition to maximising value from new statistics emerging from data integration projects, the ABS routinely undertakes exploration of alternative data sources (such as using non- survey data), production of experimental estimates, and creation of satellite accounts (a mechanism for reusing and combining existing information to provide a new perspective). The outcomes of these new methods are novel insights into pre-existing data that can be used to better understand emerging issues, and respond effectively to future information requirements.

Method: Case studies of new statistics or methods used in informing high priorities or new policy directions, and the outcomes achieved as a result

Target: Not applicable

Status: Achieved

Results

See [Case Study 5 (Measure 3.2)](#) and [Case Study 6 (Measure 3.2)](#).

Analysis

One of the ways that the ABS supports Australia's emerging priorities is by producing new statistics through data linkage projects in partnership with other Government agencies.

Case study 5 showcases the new ABS method to estimate digital activity has provided insights into the contribution of digital activities to the Australian economy, in comparison with other traditional industries. The outcome of this work has been an enhanced understanding of the emerging digital economy which is a priority area for the Australian Government.

Case study 6 provides insight into the ABS' collaboration with the ABARES, part of the DAWE, to improve understanding about the impact of climate on agricultural production in Australia. The project's outcomes include a better understanding of the effects of climate variability on the productivity and profitability of Australian farms, and the level of climate risk faced by different farming industries and regions across Australia.

Footnotes

1. ABS Corporate Plan 2019–20, pg. 13, https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/1005.02019-20?OpenDocument↵
2. https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf//home/ABS+Chief+Economist+-+Enhancing+measures+of+non-market+output+in+e conomic+statistics:+A+roadmap↵
3. https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf//home/ABS+Chief+Economist+-+Enhancing+measures+of+non-market+output+in+e conomic+statistics:+Progress+paper↵
4. https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/5217.0Feature%20Article22017- 18?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=5217.0&issue=2017-18&num=&view=↵

Case Study 1 (Measure 2.1)

ABS contributions and influence in key data governance fora

As Australia's national statistical organisation, the ABS plays an important leadership role in maximising the use of public data to provide insights for evidence-based policy advice, support government program evaluation, and enhance government services. The ABS is recognised as a leader in the Australian data system, with a long history of maximising the value of data while keeping it safe.

One way the ABS demonstrates leadership within the public sector data system is through its influence shaping direction at cross-departmental data governance fora. The DSDG and the DIPA Board are two strategic fora where ABS expertise is called upon, both prior to and during meetings, to provide material, insights and critical considerations to enable informed discussions on whole-of-government data strategy and initiatives.

DSDG

DSDG provides strategic direction and governance of public data reforms and initiatives across Australian Government entities. The ABS provides specialised expertise to DSDG in relation to data governance, management, capability and culture.

In 2019–20, DSDG considered important legislative reforms under development by the Office of the National Data Commissioner (ONDC). The ABS' views were sought in early stages and the ABS has collaborated closely with the ONDC on these reforms. In particular, ABS led development of the data sharing principles to assist agencies to safely and effectively share the data for which they are responsible. ABS led or co-led a number of 2019 Data Champions projects, including projects on building trust in the data system, and a strategy to improve data capability across the Australian Public Service (APS). Following recommendations from the Thodey Independent Review of the Public Service, the ABS is leading work to develop an APS Data Professions model to build data skills and expertise across the service.

ABS leadership across these areas demonstrates the considerable contribution of ABS expertise and experience to strategic projects that are critical to the success of government data initiatives and reform.

DIPA Board

The DIPA Board has provided strategic oversight and coordination of the three-year DIPA program to maximise the use and value of the Government's data assets. The DIPA program concluded on 30 June 2020.

The ABS has provided technical assurance and project delivery monitoring for the Board for over 60 research projects, including 27 projects in 2019–20. The ABS also provided insights into benefits realisation and identification of emerging issues; this information was a key influence in Board discussions and program risk management.

Through the DIPA Board, the ABS has led the implementation of cross-agency reforms to improve access to integrated data, addressing systematic pain-points experienced in data integration projects. Access to detailed MADIP and BLADE microdata has been broadened, with government employees, government contractors, academics and public policy researchers now accessing MADIP and BLADE microdata for approved projects safely through the ABS DataLab. The ABS' involvement in this work has had a significant impact on improving data access to achieve the DIPA objective of demonstrating the value of Australia's data assets through integrated data.

Case Study 2 (Measure 2.2)

Stakeholder feedback on the ABS' statistical response to the COVID-19 pandemic

In responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government needed timely and accurate economic, social and health information to inform the policy response. The ABS engaged with a wide range of stakeholders to meet this need. Central to its success responding to the pandemic was the ABS' ability to quickly develop and release to market new products and provisional and preliminary data that meant close to real-time data was available to inform important decisions.

New products included the release of Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages that provided close to real time insights on the change in payroll jobs and total wages each week. A monthly survey of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on businesses and a fortnightly survey of the impact on households provided quick turnaround information about the experiences of businesses and households.

Other new products included the monthly preliminary releases of retail sales, merchandise trade, overseas travel and mortality data well in advance of final products, and as close to the end of the reference month as possible. Interactive maps of employment and health (age and health conditions) were published, and additional analysis of short-term visitor arrivals and international students, labour market and financial market developments were produced.

These rapidly released products, and the ABS' overarching response to the pandemic, were informed by engagement across government including PM&C, the Treasury, the RBA, the Department of Health, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (DISER).

A reference group of Commonwealth agencies helped shape the delivery and analysis of the new, quick turnaround surveys exploring the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on households and businesses.

To produce the Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages release, the ABS partnered with the ATO to use STP data. At its May 2020 meeting, the ASAC acknowledged the ABS for its timely, innovative and collaborative response to the pandemic.

Beyond government, the ABS reached out to supermarkets, banks and other private organisations to seek permission to extend the use of current data assets, and explore access to new data sources.

The ABS communicated with the public and Australian governments about the range of new statistical products available through media interviews, a dedicated COVID-19 pandemic section on the ABS website and undertaking regular promotion through media and social media channels.

The ABS received overwhelmingly positive feedback on its response to the pandemic and the usefulness of the additional statistical products from Commonwealth agencies, state and territory treasuries, the RBA, and non-government institutions and universities, including the Grattan Institute, University of Melbourne and Australian National University.

University of Technology Sydney, and previous Chief Economist at ANZ, Professor Warren Hogan provided a simple summary of stakeholder sentiment:

"These are all excellent initiatives and of high value in these extraordinary times. I also appreciate your communications of these issues. All round a great job by the ABS."

Case Study 3 (Measure 2.3)

Collaborative enhancement of the BLADE to inform business policy

The ABS has partnered with Swinburne University and the DISER to showcase and enhance the analytical capabilities of the BLADE.

BLADE links ABS survey data with large administrative datasets held by government agencies such as the ATO, DISER, IP Australia and the DHA. The result is a wealth of integrated financial and business characteristics data for all active Australian businesses in our economy.

Analysts have supported the development of BLADE and are now using the data to evaluate the effectiveness of government programs and expand the evidence base for future business policy decisions. For example, Swinburne University researchers are using BLADE data in a number of data-driven policy projects:

- In partnership with IP Australia, investigating the effects of changes in the Government's intellectual property enforcement regime on the performance of design intensive firms. The recent addition of merchandise trade data in BLADE has allowed the University team to investigate firm-level imports and exports as an indication for entry into global value chains. Findings from this project will inform IP Australia's review of the design rights system.
- Together with DISER, providing the first definitive evidence of the impact and breadth of any spill over effect in the Australian context. In economic terms, spill overs occur where the effects of an economic activity accrue not only to those undertaking the activity, but also to others. This evidence will be used to inform future policy and program development, including the R&D Tax Incentive program.
- In collaboration with Austrade, working on a set of methodologies to estimate the impact of Austrade's services and programs on Australia's trade and investment. The analysis of merchandise trade data in BLADE allows analysts to build models to estimate Austrade's impact on various industry groups exporting to different markets. The outcomes will provide evidence on how Austrade's programs assist Australian companies to build export capabilities and activity in order to strengthen and diversify Australia's export base.

Swinburne University's contribution has helped to build understanding of, and confidence in, the BLADE asset and are now using BLADE to provide valuable insights into how businesses fare over time and the factors that drive performance, innovation, job creation, competitiveness and productivity.

Professor Beth Webster of Swinburne University said:

"The creation of, and access to, BLADE has been a game-changer in the objectivity and reliability of evidence for economic policy. It has put Australia on the international frontier for evidence-based policy making and this will ultimately promote better economic well-being."

Case Study 4 (Measure 2.3)

Helping vulnerable Australians survive heatwaves: insights from the MADIP

As part of the DIPA, the ABS has partnered with the BoM, the Department of Health, the University of Adelaide, Geoscience Australia, and the DAWE to analyse data from the MADIP to improve understanding of those Australians most at risk from heatwaves.

MADIP links information on healthcare, education, government payments, personal income tax and population demographics to create a comprehensive picture of Australia over time. Researchers use MADIP data to look at patterns and trends in the Australian population, and provide new insights to support the development of government policies, programs, and services.

This cross-portfolio collaboration, led by the BoM, has produced customised data from MADIP to explore the key factors that put people most at risk of getting sick or dying during heatwaves. These data, containing demographic characteristics and deaths information, as well as indicators of chronic disease, were made available in the ABS DataLab, where researchers were able to explore links with weather observations and environmental characteristics.

BoM, the Department of Health and University of Adelaide analysts used the data to measure the likelihood and impact of a person getting sick or dying during heatwave conditions. From there, the project built a national map of heat health vulnerability which produced the following insights, amongst others:

- Nationally, mortality increased by 2% during heatwaves with an estimated 1,418 excess deaths between 2007 and 2017. The highest increase was in Adelaide and Rest of Tasmania.
- Visits to emergency departments, general practitioners and certain specialists significantly increase during heatwaves.
- Factors like social isolation, insufficient English proficiency, having diabetes, and antipsychotic medications were associated with increased heatwave-related deaths and general practitioner visits.
- Large rural towns have the highest elevated risk for heatwave deaths.

These findings have provided an evidence base to support the development of better government services to help vulnerable Australians survive future heatwaves, including local interventions such as forecast warning systems. The project has built interest and confidence in the analysis of MADIP data which could be applied to understanding the impact of other natural hazards in future.

Data Analyst, Matt Beaty, of the Department of Health said:

"The ABS was central to the success of the multi-agency partnership's delivery of the heatwaves project, and the collaboration would not have been possible without the ABS."

Case Study 5 (Measure 3.2)

Digital activity in Australia: a new method for measuring online contributions to the economy

Rapid advances in digital technologies have transformed the ways in which households, businesses and governments interact with each other. Digital activities have grown quickly and now make an important contribution to economies around the world.

In response to the increased demand for statistical insights into digital activities in Australia, the ABS capitalised on work undertaken by the United States Bureau of Economic Analysis and developed preliminary experimental estimates of digital activity in Australia. Statistics for 2011–12 to 2016–17 were first published in February 2019 and then extended in October 2019 to include 2017–18.[1][2]

These new ABS estimates measure digital activity in Australia as the production of:

- digital enabling infrastructure e.g. computer hardware/software, telecommunications equipment and support services that make up computer networks;
- digital media e.g. audio, video and advertisement broadcasting services; and
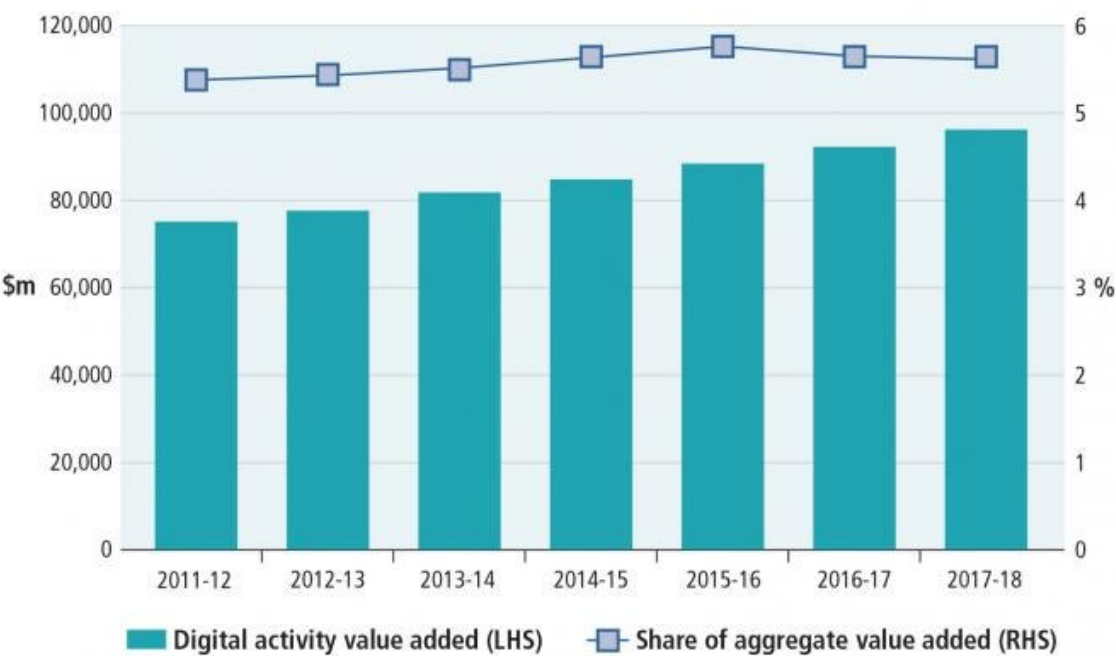- e-commerce e.g. online retail and wholesale transactions.

In current prices, the estimates show that digital activity (as defined above) contributed 5.6% to total Australian value added in 2017–18; compared to 6.9% in the United States. From 2011–12 to 2017–18, the average share in total value added for digital activities was greater than industries such as transport, postal and warehousing, education and training, and retail trade.

As with any experimental estimates, there are a number of caveats around the data generated using this approach. The industry and product categorisations used to compile the estimates are currently static, so they won't capture new types of digital production outside the specified production categories, or gradual shifts in digital emphasis within existing products. However, the new estimates have been well received by agencies such as the DISER, the Treasury, IP Australia, and PM&C. In response to the ongoing demand for statistical insights into Australia's digital economy, the ABS will continue to release, update and extend these experimental estimates each year.

The DISER Director of Metrics and Analytics noted that the ABS' work on estimates of digital activity:

"… has made an invaluable contribution to Australia's international engagement to improve the measurement of the economy… *The Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources has used this work to share our experience and challenges measuring the digital economy."*

Digital activity value added ($m) and share in aggregate value added (%), from 2011–12 to 2017–18, current prices

Footnotes

1. https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/ABS+Chief+Economist+- +Full+Paper+of+Measuring+Digital+Activities +in+the+Australian+Economy↩
2. https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/5217.0Feature%20Article22017- 18?

opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=5217.0&issue=2017-18&num=&view=↩

Case Study 6 (Measure 3.2)

Drought and Australian farms: new data insights into the impact of climate on agriculture

In the national context of increasing climate events, such as flood, fire and drought, insights into the economic impact of climate on the agriculture sector are important for the Australian Government. In 2019–20, the ABS partnered with the ABARES, part of the DAWE, to improve understanding of how drought and climate variability are impacting Australian farm production.

In its initial stage, the collaboration focussed on the development of the FLAD. The FLAD brings together 20 years of ABS agricultural data, to consistently categorise farming outputs in a way that allows them to be compared over time. This longitudinal view is valuable because it assists users of these data to analyse changes in agricultural production over time.

In the second stage of the project, ABS data integration experts and ABARES incorporated FLAD, together with climate data and detailed location information, into the BLADE for the first time. This linkage was significant because it enabled information about farm production and earnings to be related to local weather data which can only be done using location information.

The third stage of the collaboration focussed on creating data models to understand the impact of the climate and drought on agricultural production and economic outcomes. ABARES staff worked with ABS statistical methodologists to refine these modelling approaches. These models will not only assist the ABS to inform future approaches to producing agriculture statistics, but also assist Government to better understand of the effects of climate on the productivity and profitability of Australian farms. This will help to assess climate risk faced by different farming industries and regions across Australia and inform Government and industry mitigation strategies across the agricultural sector.

This project will have ongoing benefits for a range of microdata users. FLAD will enable analysis of changes in agricultural production over time for a wider range of researchers. More broadly, the methods used to incorporate location information into the BLADE will pave the way for understanding how businesses of all types are impacted by a range of nearby physical environment variables e.g. temperature, air quality or urban infrastructure.

Neal Hughes from the DAWE commented that:

"This project has established a powerful new data asset, which should support long-term collaboration between the ABS and ABARES to improve the quality of agricultural statistics and to generate meaningful insights on important policy issues."

End-year analysis of performance against purpose 2019-20

As Australia's national statistics office, the ABS performs a key role in assisting governments, business and the community by delivering trusted, world-class statistics, and providing information necessary to drive innovation and to meet the evolving information needs to support our economy, environment, and society.

The ABS has continued its emphasis on the delivery of high-quality official statistics and drawing new information insights from effective and safe use of available data. The ABS operates within a complex, competitive, and technologically dynamic environment. Within this environment, the ABS is responding to an increasing demand for quality data, new legislative arrangements, opportunities for innovation through new technologies, growing competition for analytical capability, and increased focus on social licence.

In 2019–20, the ABS performed strongly against the majority of the performance measures outlined in the 2019-20 Corporate Plan. Of the eight performance measures, the ABS achieved six, and substantially achieved two. Two measures were only substantially achieved due to:

- an inability to report against one target for measure 1.2
- a change to the survey of stakeholders for measure 2.2 - which meant the ABS did not have a quantitative basis to assess stakeholder satisfaction compared to previous years
- a change in the ABS approach to social media during the COVID-19 pandemic affecting one target for measure 2.2.

Operating context

The ABS' achievements in 2019–20 have occurred within an increasingly complex operating environment and data landscape. A number of factors which have influenced performance outcomes include (but are not limited to):

- maintaining the ABS' relevance by delivering new informational insights as the economy, society and environment change
- increased stakeholder demand for more timely and varied data, while experiencing continued budget constraints
- preserving a professional workforce in the face of increasing external demand for data skills and the expertise possessed by ABS staff
- sustaining, and improving, community trust in the ABS, which is crucial to cost-effective data collection
- ensuring a secure data environment in an increasingly complex and challenging digital landscape
- the cost of sustaining high response rates.

Key activities

In 2019–20, the ABS undertook a diverse range of activities to achieve its purpose, such as:

- Establishing the COVID-19 Statistical Taskforce to provide new data sources and products in almost real time to inform government policy formation and decision making
- Delivering a significant household survey program, including conduct of the General Social Survey and the Survey of Income and Housing
- Releasing outcomes and findings of large surveys conducted in previous years, including: the 2017–18 National Health Survey; the 2017–18 Survey of Income and Housing; the 2018–19 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey; and the 2018 Survey of Disability Ageing and Carers
- Working closely with The Treasury to establish the Centre for Population announced in the 2019–20 Budget, contributing ABS data and expertise
- Expanding the ABS' suite of key statistics to include a labour account and the Linked Employer-Employee Dataset (LEED), and enhancing economic and labour market measurement
- Securing funding to conduct the Intergenerational Health and Mental Health Survey and the Time Use Survey, neither of which have been undertaken in the last decade
- Concluding the five-year long Statistical Business Transformation Program, including a new website (due for release in late 2020) that will make digital information and services easier to find, understand and use
- Reducing provider burden and improving survey response rates by making it easier and simpler to provide data

online

- Finalising the content of the 2021 Census of Population and Housing, including new topics on long-term health conditions and service with the Australian Defence Force
- Preparing for the 2021 Census, including arrangements for the Operational Readiness Exercise in late 2020 and planning and field testing for the 2021 Post Census Review
- Providing technical advice and assistance to the National Data Commissioner to support the development of the draft Data Availability and Transparency Act
- Undertaking a broad range of data integration activities as a primary integrating authority for the DIPA
- Concluding the three-year long DIPA, including technical assurance and project delivery monitoring for 27 research projects in 2019–20
- Delivering new and enhanced statistical collection and dissemination capabilities through the SBTP, including the launch of a beta version of a new ABS website.

Objective-specific factors influencing performance

Objective 1: ABS statistics are trusted and used to inform important decisions

The majority of measures and targets for this objective were achieved, notwithstanding the challenges in the ABS' operating environment. The 2019–20 ABS Forward Work Program (FWP) reflected extensive external consultation and consideration of the ABS' current environment and financial context. Extensive partner consultation ensured the FWP was relevant as well as financially responsible, confirming the most efficient use of ABS resources on the highest priority work program to meeting stakeholders' needs.

The emphasis on consultation and prioritisation was also evident in the ABS' response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The establishment of the internal COVID-19 pandemic statistical taskforce by the ABS recognised the sizeable benefits for the community and governments to have access to up-to-date information about the responses of individuals and businesses to evolving circumstances. The taskforce identified and assessed new data sources and products to support COVID-19 pandemic analysis and insights in as close to real time as possible; and provided a key point of external contact for requests from governments for additional COVID-19 pandemic information. The need for this taskforce was evident in the high and growing demand for additional data, statistics and information to inform government decisions, and reflected the value of the ABS and the expertise and professionalism of its workforce.

In the first half of 2019–20, the ABS finalised its Building Trust in the ABS and Our Data Use Strategy. The strategy will foster public trust in ABS data use by evolving the ABS' practices to increase transparency of its work/decisions and improve communications and engagement about data use. It will drive behaviour change so ABS staff are more conscious of the importance of public trust and how their actions contribute to building or reducing trust.

Objective 2: Partnerships to enable better decisions

Advancement of the national data infrastructure through partnerships has had a dual focus in 2019–20: expanding and diversifying the ABS' partnerships with individual partners through bespoke projects, and working with Government to ensure the proper and effective functioning of Australia's statistical governance framework.

One significant development has been the ABS' collaboration with the Office of the National Data Commissioner on the development of the Data Availability and Transparency legislation; this new data sharing act has significant implications for the ABS in its role as the nation's primary data custodian. In addition, the role for the Australian Statistician on the National Data Advisory Council will be critical to ensuring data is made safely available to promote better decisions across government.

The COVID-19 pandemic required the ABS to adapt its engagement with stakeholders, both in terms of managing and meeting expectations around data availability and promotion of ABS products through digital channels.

Objective 3: New statistics to support Australia's priorities

A key focus area for this objective has been advancing a broad range of new statistics and methods through data integration initiatives and collaborative projects. There were a number of challenges in the operating environment in this particular arena, including shifting stakeholder priorities in light of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 that meant a number of collaborative projects did not advance as expected.

Beyond the specific measures for this objective, the ABS delivered a range of new statistics in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including: preliminary retail turnover data, additional information on business impacts, additional analysis of short-term overseas visitors and international students, additional monthly and quarterly

additional analysis of short-term overseas visitors and international students, additional monthly and quarterly hours worked information, and interactive employment maps.

The demand for access to ABS data has continued to grow and demonstrable benefits are realised (for both the ABS and its partners) through data integration initiatives and other statistical collaborations. The DIPA program came to an end at the end of 2019–20. The program has enabled the ABS to improve the quality of integrated data assets, including production of key infrastructure.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Minister for Housing and Assistant Treasurer

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (the Entity) for the year ended 30 June 2020:

(a) comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015*; and

(b) present fairly the financial position of the Entity as at 30 June 2020 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

The financial statements of the Entity, which I have audited, comprise the following as at 30 June 2020 and for the year then ended:

- Statement by the Accountable Authority and Chief Finance Officer;
- Statement of Comprehensive Income;
- Statement of Financial Position;
- Statement of Changes in Equity;
- Cash Flow Statement;
- Administered Schedule of Comprehensive Income;
- Administered Statement of Financial Position;
- Administered Reconciliation Schedule;
- Administered Cash Flow Statement; and
- Notes to the financial statements, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of my report. I am independent of the Entity in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements for financial statement audits conducted by the Auditor-General and his delegates. These include the relevant independence requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) to the extent that they are not in conflict with the *Auditor-General Act 1997*. I have also fulfilled my other responsibilities in accordance with the Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Accountable Authority's responsibility for the financial statements

As the Accountable Authority of the Entity, the Australian Statistician is responsible under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (the Act) for the preparation and fair presentation of annual financial statements that comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the rules made under the Act. The Australian Statistician is also responsible for such internal control as the Australian Statistician determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Australian Statistician is responsible for assessing the ability of the Entity to continue as a going concern, taking into account whether the Entity's operations will cease as a result

of an administrative restructure or for any other reason. The Australian Statistician is also responsible for disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the assessment indicates that it is not appropriate.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control;
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Accountable Authority;
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Accountable Authority's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern; and
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Accountable Authority regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Australian National Audit Office

Lorena Skipper

Executive Director

Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra

21 August 2020

Contents

Statement by the Accountable Authority and Chief Finance Officer

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2020 comply with subsection 42(2) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act), and are based on properly maintained financial records as per subsection 41(2) of the PGPA Act.

In our opinion, at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Australian Bureau of Statistics will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

Signed ....
Dr. David Gruen
Australian Statistician
21 August 2020

Signed ....
Lily Viertmann
Chief Finance Officer
21 August 2020

Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the period ended 30 June 2020

	Notes	2020	2019	Original Budget 2020
		$'000	$'000	$'000
NET COST OF SERVICES				
Expenses				
Employee benefits	1.1A	**308,585**	285,074	302,592
Suppliers	1.1B	**87,885**	101,260	120,073
Depreciation and amortisation	2.2A	**47,055**	33,758	34,233
Finance costs	1.1C	**1,952**	11	-
Impairment loss on financial instruments		**2**	8	-
Write-down and impairment of other assets	1.1D	**23,332**	4,064	500
Total expenses		**468,811**	424,175	457,398
Own-Source Income				
Own-source revenue				
Revenue from contracts with customers	1.2A	**33,282**	47,839	42,000
Rental income	1.2B	**173**	-	-
Other revenue	1.2C	**3,162**	844	508
Total own-source revenue		**36,617**	48,683	42,508
Gains				
Other gains		**81**	35	220
Total gains		**81**	35	220
Total own-source income		**36,698**	48,718	42,728
Net cost of services		**(432,113)**	(375,457)	(414,670)
Revenue from Government		**378,506**	330,246	380,437
Deficit		**(53,607)**	(45,211)	(34,233)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME				
Items not subject to subsequent reclassification to net cost of services				
Changes in asset revaluation surplus/ (deficit)		**807**	(1,034)	-

Total other comprehensive gain/ (loss)	**807**	(1,034)	-
Total comprehensive loss	**(52,800)**	(46,245)	(34,233)

Accounting Policy

<u>Revenue from Government</u>

Amounts appropriated for departmental appropriations for the year (adjusted for any formal additions and reductions) are recognised as Revenue from Government when the Australian Bureau of Statistics (the ABS) gains control of the appropriation. Appropriations receivables are recognised at their nominal amounts. Departmental capital budgets are accounted for as contributions by owners.

Revenue from Government received by the ABS is inclusive of the cyclical appropriation related to the five-yearly Census of Population and Housing.

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Refer to Overview for explanations of major variances between budgeted and actual amounts.

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2020

	Notes	2020	2019	Original Budget 2020
		$'000	$'000	$'000
ASSETS				
Financial assets				
Cash and cash equivalents		**6,087**	5,200	2,232
Trade and other receivables	2.1A	**82,711**	71,168	96,050
Total financial assets		**88,798**	76,368	98,282
Non-financial assets				
Leasehold improvements	2.2A	**30,921**	34,132	-
Buildings[1]	2.2A	**148,340**	-	-
Plant and equipment[1]	2.2A	**17,133**	18,232	53,324
Intangibles	2.2A	**95,656**	106,739	94,706
Prepayments		**12,941**	14,132	6,854
Total non-financial assets		**304,991**	173,235	154,884
Total assets		**393,789**	249,603	253,166
LIABILITIES				
Payables				
Suppliers	2.3A	**23,121**	22,683	26,339
Other payables	2.3B	**42,115**	44,144	49,284
Total payables		**65,236**	66,827	75,623
Interest bearing liabilities				
Leases	2.4	**151,936**	-	-
Total interest bearing liabilities		**151,936**	-	-
Provisions				
Employee leave		**108,834**	99,954	96,304
Other	2.5A	**1,417**	534	531

Other	2.5A	1,417	534	531
Total provisions		**110,251**	100,488	96,835
Total liabilities		**327,423**	167,315	172,458
Net assets		**66,366**	82,288	80,708
EQUITY				
Contributed equity		**372,481**	349,392	370,178
Reserves		**30,338**	29,531	30,565
Accumulated deficit[2]		**(336,453)**	(296,635)	(320,035)
Total equity		**66,366**	82,288	80,708

1. Right-of-use assets under AASB16 *Leases* relating to office and motor vehicle leases are included in Buildings, and Plant and equipment respectively.
2. The initial application of AASB 16 had an impact of $13.789 million on the opening balance.

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Refer to Overview for explanations of major variances between budgeted and actual amounts.

Accounting Policy

<u>Cash and cash equivalents</u>

Cash is recognised at its nominal amount.

<u>Employee leave</u>

Refer to Accounting Policy Note 1.1A: Employee Benefits for detail.

Statement of Changes in Equity

for the period ended 30 June 2020

	Retained earnings			Asset revaluation reserves			Contributed equity		
	2020	2019	Original Budget 2020	**2020**	2019	Original Budget 2020	**2020**	2019	Original Budget 2020
	$'000	$'000	$'000	**$'000**	$'000	$'000	**$'000**	$'000	$'000
Opening balance									
Balance carried forward from previous period	**(296,635)**	(251,424)	(285,802)	**29,531**	30,565	30,565	**349,392**	321,441	349,392
Adjustment on initial application of AASB 16	**13,789**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	-	-
Adjusted opening balance	**(282,846)**	(251,424)	(285,802)	**29,531**	30,565	30,565	**349,392**	321,441	349,392
Comprehensive income									
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period	**(53,607)**	(45,211)	(34,233)	**-**	-	-	**-**	-	-
Other comprehensive income	**-**	-	-	**807**	(1,034)	-	**-**	-	-
Total comprehensive income	**(53,607)**	(45,211)	(34,233)	**807**	(1,034)	-	**-**	-	-
Transactions with owners									
Contributions by owners									
Equity injection - appropriations	-	-	-	-	-	-	**6,218**	13,602	6,218
Equity injection - other[1]	-	-	-	-	-	-	**2,377**	-	-
Departmental capital budget	-	-	-	-	-	-	**14,494**	14,349	14,568
Total transactions with owners	**-**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**23,089**	27,951	20,786
Closing	**(336,453)**	(296,635)	(320,035)	**30,338**	29,531	30,565	**372,481**	349,392	370,178

**balance as at
30 June**

1. In 2019-20, as a result of a Government decision, the ABS accrued $2.377 million for Equity Injections, which will be appropriated in the 2020-21 Budget Appropriation Bills.

Accounting Policy

Equity Injections

Amounts appropriated which are designated as 'equity injections' for a year (less any formal reductions) and Departmental Capital Budgets (DCBs) are recognised directly in contributed equity in that year.

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.
Refer to Overview for explanation of major variances between budgeted and actual amounts.

Cash Flow Statement

for the period ended 30 June 2020

	Notes	2020 $'000	2019 $'000	Original Budget 2020 $'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Cash received				
Appropriations		**380,582**	362,058	380,430
Sales of goods and rendering of services		**35,303**	45,225	42,000
GST received		**10,204**	12,807	294
Other		**378**	284	508
Total cash received		**426,467**	420,374	423,232
Cash used				
Employees		**296,472**	277,962	300,142
Suppliers[1]		**95,361**	116,882	122,396
Interest payments on lease liabilities[1]		**1,950**	-	-
Section 74 receipts transferred to OPA		**13,400**	22,600	794
Total cash used		**407,183**	417,444	423,332
Net cash from operating activities		**19,284**	2,930	(100)
INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Cash received				
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		**85**	10	100
Total cash received		**85**	10	100
Cash used				
Purchase of leasehold improvements		**241**	5,341	-
Purchase of plant and equipment		**6,215**	10,081	-
Purchase of intangibles		**22,721**	30,981	20,786
Total cash used		**29,177**	46,403	20,786
Net cash (used by) investing activities		**(29,092)**	(46,393)	(20,686)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Cash received				

Contributed equity	**9,148**	24,238	6,218
Departmental capital budget	**14,230**	22,191	14,568
Total cash received	**23,378**	46,429	20,786
Cash used			
Principal payments of lease liabilities[1]	**12,683**	-	-
Total cash used	**12,683**	-	-
Net cash from financing activities	**10,695**	46,429	20,786
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held	**887**	2,966	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	**5,200**	2,234	2,232
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	**6,087**	5,200	2,232

1. The ABS has applied AASB 16 using the modified retrospective approach, and comparative information has not been restated and continues to be reported under AASB 117.

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Refer to Overview for explanation of major variances between budgeted and actual amounts

Administered Schedule of Comprehensive Income

for the period ended 30 June 2020

	Notes	**2020** $'000	2019 $'000	Original Budget 2020 $'000
NET COST OF SERVICES				
Income				
Revenue				
Non-taxation revenue				
Fines		-	2	-
Total non-taxation revenue		-	2	-
Total income		-	2	-
Net contribution by services		-	2	-
Surplus		-	2	-
Total comprehensive income		-	2	-

The ABS had no administered expenses at 30 June 2020 (2019: Nil).

Accounting Policy

Revenue

All administered revenues are revenues relating to ordinary activities performed by the ABS on behalf of the Australian Government.

Revenue is generated from fines applied by the courts, which is recognised upon payment. Court costs awarded against the ABS, as opposed to fines, are recorded as a departmental expense.

Fines

The *Census and Statistics Act 1905* provides the Australian Statistician with the authority to conduct statistical collections and, when necessary, to direct a person or an organisation to provide statistical information. Where information is not provided, the ABS can impose a fine on the person or organisation. Such fines are reported in the financial statements as administered income.

Administered Schedule of Assets and Liabilities

as at 30 June 2020

The ABS had no administered assets or liabilities at 30 June 2020 (2019: Nil).

Administered Reconciliation Schedule

for the period ended 30 June 2020

	Notes	**2020** **$'000**	2019 $'000
Opening assets less liabilities as at 1 July		-	-
Net contribution by services			
Income		-	2
Transfers to the Australian Government			
Cash transfers to the Official Public Account		-	2
Closing assets less liabilities as at 30 June		-	-

Administered Cash Flow Statement

for the period ended 30 June 2020

	Notes	**2020** $'000	2019 $'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Fines		-	2
Total cash received		-	2
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		-	-
Cash to Official Public Account		-	2
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		-	-

Accounting Policy

Administered Cash Transfers to Official Public Account

Revenue collected by the ABS for use by the Government rather than the ABS is administered revenue. Collections are transferred to the Official Public Account (OPA) maintained by the Department of Finance. These transfers to the OPA are adjustments to the administered cash held by the ABS on behalf of the Government and reported as such in the Schedule of Administered Cash Flows, and in the Administered Reconciliation Schedule.

Overview

Objectives of the ABS

The ABS is an Australian Government controlled entity. It is a not-for-profit entity. The objective of the ABS is to deliver high quality statistical information to inform Australia's most important issues and through engaging with users within government, business and the community to ensure they have the confidence in the statistical resources available to enable them to make informed decisions.

The Basis of Preparation

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements and are required by section 42 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015* (FRR);
- Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations – Reduced Disclosure Requirements issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that apply for the reporting period; and
- AASB 1053 *Application of Tiers of Australian Accounting Standards* and other reporting requirements. The ABS has applied Tier 2 reporting requirements.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and are in accordance with the historical cost convention, except for certain assets and liabilities at fair value. Except where stated, no allowance is made for the effect of changing prices on the results or the financial position. The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars.

Significant Accounting Judgments and Estimates

In the process of applying the accounting policies listed in the notes, the ABS has made judgements in relation to the impairment provision of Internally Generated Software (IGSW) assets that have significant impact on the amounts recorded in the financial statements. The ABS engaged an independent reviewer to assess the IGSW for impairment as per the requirements of AASB 136 *Impairment of Assets*. Where indicators of impairment exist, an amount of impairment is determined based around the uncertainty of the future usability of the Statistical Business Transformation Program Stream 4 capabilities.

At this stage, no accounting assumptions and estimates have been identified that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

New Accounting Standards

No accounting standard has been adopted earlier than the application date as stated in the standard.

Application of AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* / AASB 2016-8 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Australian Implementation Guidance for Not-for-Profit Entities* and AASB 1058 *Income of Not-For-Profit Entities*

AASB 15, AASB 2016-8 and AASB 1058 became effective 1 July 2019.

AASB 15 establishes a comprehensive framework for determining whether, how much and when revenue is recognised. It replaces existing revenue recognition guidance, including AASB 118 *Revenue*. The core principle of AASB 15 is that an entity recognises revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods and services.

AASB 1058 is relevant in circumstances where AASB 15 does not apply. AASB 1058 replaces most of the not-for-profit provisions of AASB 1004 *Contributions* and applies to transactions where the consideration to acquire an asset is significantly less than fair value principally to enable the entity to further its objectives, and where volunteer services are received.

The details of the changes in accounting policies, transitional provisions and adjustments are disclosed below and in the relevant notes to the financial statements.

The ABS adopted AASB 15 and AASB 1058 using the modified retrospective approach, under which the cumulative

effect of initial application is recognised in retained earnings at 1 July 2019. Accordingly, the comparative information presented for 2019 is not restated.

Under the new income recognition model the ABS first determined whether an enforceable agreement exists and whether the promises to transfer goods or services to the customer are 'sufficiently specific'. If an enforceable agreement exists and the promises are 'sufficiently specific' (to a transaction or part of a transaction), the ABS applies the general AASB 15 principles to determine the appropriate revenue recognition. If these criteria are not met, the ABS shall consider whether AASB 1058 applies.

In relation to AASB 15, the ABS elected to apply the new standard to all new and uncompleted contracts from the date of initial application. The ABS is required to aggregate the effect of all of the contract modifications that occur before the date of initial application.

In terms of AASB 1058, the ABS is required to recognise volunteer services at fair value if those services would have been purchased if not provided voluntarily, and the fair value of those services can be measured reliably.

The ABS did not make any adjustments against revenue, expense, assets, liabilities and retained earnings at 1 July 2019.

Application of AASB 16 *Leases*

AASB 16 became effective on 1 July 2019.

This new standard has replaced AASB 117 *Leases*, Interpretation 4 *Determining whether an Arrangement contains a Lease*, Interpretation 115 *Operating Leases — Incentives*, and Interpretation 127 *Evaluating the Substance of Transactions Involving the Legal Form of a Lease*.

AASB 16 provides a single lessee accounting model, requiring the recognition of assets and liabilities for all leases, together with options to exclude leases where the lease term is 12 months or less, or where the underlying asset is of low value. AASB 16 substantially carries forward the lessor accounting in AASB 117, with the distinction between operating leases and finance leases being retained.

The details of the changes in accounting policies, transitional provisions and adjustments are disclosed below and in the relevant notes to the financial statements.

The ABS adopted AASB 16 using the modified retrospective approach, under which the cumulative effect of initial application is recognised in retained earnings at 1 July 2019. Accordingly, the comparative information presented for 2019 is not restated, that is, it is presented as previously reported under AASB 117 and related interpretations.

The ABS elected to apply the practical expedient to not reassess whether a contract is, or contains a lease at the date of initial application. Contracts entered into before the transition date that were not identified as leases under AASB 117 were not reassessed. The definition of a lease under AASB 16 was applied only to contracts entered into or changed on or after 1 July 2019.

AASB 16 provides for certain optional practical expedients, including those related to the initial adoption of the standard. The ABS applied the following practical expedients when applying AASB 16 to leases previously classified as operating leases under AASB 117:

- Apply a single discount rate to a portfolio of leases with reasonably similar characteristics;
- Exclude initial direct costs from the measurement of right-of-use assets at the date of initial application for leases where the right-of-use asset was determined as if AASB 16 had been applied since the commencement date;
- Reliance on previous assessments on whether leases are onerous as opposed to preparing an impairment review under AASB 136 *Impairment of Assets* as at the date of initial application; and
- Applied the exemption not to recognise right-of-use assets and liabilities for leases with less than 12 months of lease term remaining as of the date of initial application or where the underlying asset is of low value.

As a lessee, the ABS previously classified leases as operating or finance leases based on its assessment of whether the lease transferred substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership. Under AASB 16, the ABS recognises right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for most leases. However, the ABS elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for some leases of low value assets based on the value of the underlying asset when new or for short-term leases with a lease term of 12 months or less.

On adoption of AASB 16, the ABS recognised right-of-use assets and lease liabilities in relation to leases of office space and motor vehicles, which had previously been classified as operating leases.

The lease liabilities were measured at the present value of the remaining lease payments, discounted using the ABS' incremental borrowing rate as at 1 July 2019. The ABS' incremental borrowing rate is the rate at which a similar borrowing could be obtained from an independent creditor under comparable terms and conditions. The weighted-average rate applied was 1.2%.

The right-of-use assets were measured as follows:

1. Office space: measured at an amount equal to the lease liability, adjusted by the amount of any prepaid or accrued lease payments.
2. All other leases: the carrying value that would have resulted from AASB 16 being applied from the commencement date of the leases, subject to the practical expedients noted above.

On transition to AASB 16, the ABS recognised additional right-of-use assets and additional lease liabilities, recognising the difference in retained earnings. The impact on transition is summarised below:

	1 July 2019
	$'000
Impact on Transition of AASB 16	
Departmental	
Right-of-use assets	165,755
Lease liabilities	164,394
Retained earnings[1]	13,789

1. Represents adjustments of $7.669 million to lease straight lining and $6.120 million to lease incentives.

The following table reconciles the Departmental minimum lease commitments disclosed in the entity's 30 June 2019 annual financial statements to the amount of lease liabilities recognised on 1 July 2019:

	$'000
Minimum operating lease commitment at 30 June 2019 (GST exclusive)	198,554
Less: short-term leases not recognised under AASB 16	(44)
Less: Other adjustments[1]	(20,904)
Undiscounted lease payments[2]	177,606
Less: effect of discounting using the incremental borrowing rate as at the date of initial application	(13,212)
Lease liabilities recognised as at 1 July 2019	164,394

1. Represent the commitments adjusted to account for events affecting leases as at 30 June 2019. The adjustments include GST related adjustments ($18.050 million), prepayments ($1.361 million), rental abatements ($1.483 million) and other adjustments ($0.010 million) received post 30 June 2019.

2. The ABS did not have any low value leases nor any extension options that are reasonably certain to be exercised.

Taxation

The ABS is exempt from all forms of taxation except Fringe Benefits Tax and the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of GST except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office; and for receivables and payables.

Reporting of Administered Activities

Administered revenues, and cash flows are disclosed in the administered schedules.

There were no administered expenses, assets, liabilities, contingencies or commitments as at 30 June 2020 (2019: Nil).

Except where otherwise stated, administered items are accounted for on the same basis and using the same policies as for departmental items, including the application of Australian Accounting Standards.

Impacts of COVID-19

The outbreak of COVID-19 impacted on the collection of data where face to face engagement was required. This reduced the travel and contractor expenses and the amount of user funded revenue which were able to be recognised in 2019-20.

The ABS was also engaged in direct work relating to measuring the impact of, and recovery from, COVID-19.

During the year the ABS carried out a fair value review of its property, plant and equipment asset classes, an actuarial assessment of employee provisions, and an impairment review of its internally generated software. There were no indicators that COVID-19 had an impact on the reported values of these items which would significantly affect the ABS' financial position and its ability to continue as a going concern.

Events after the Reporting Period

Departmental

There have been no events occurring subsequent to the balance date that would affect the ABS' financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2020.

Administered

There have been no events occurring subsequent to the balance date that would affect the ABS' financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2020.

Explanations of Major Variances to Budget

The following table provides commentary of major variances between the unaudited ABS budgeted information published in the Treasury's 2019-20 Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) and the audited 2019-20 financial statements.

An explanation for a major variance may not be provided where the item is considered immaterial in the overall context of the financial statements.

As a guide, variances are considered to be 'major' based on the following criteria:

- the variance between budget and actual is greater than 10%; and
- the variance between budget and actual is greater than 2% of the relevant category (Income, Expenses and Equity totals); or
- items which may be considered to be important for the reader's understanding or are relevant to an assessment of the discharge of accountability and to an analysis of performance of the ABS.

Affected line items	Explanations of major variances
Statement of Comprehensive Income	
Suppliers	Suppliers expenditure is $32.2m lower than the original budget due to the implementation of AASB 16 *Leases*, reduction in travel and contractor expenses for data collection due to COVID-19 and reclassification of budgeted supplier expenditure to capital.
Depreciation and amortisation	Depreciation and amortisation expenditure is $12.8m higher than the original budget due to the implementation of AASB 16 *Leases*. The impact of AASB 16 was unknown when the budget was set.
Write-down and impairment of	Write-down and impairment of other assets is $22.8m higher than the original budget due to the impairment of internally generated software caused by obsolescence and uncertainty

other assets	around the Statistical Business Transformation Program Stream 4 projects continuing.
Revenue from contracts with customers	Revenue from contracts with customers is $8.7m lower than the original budget due to the deferral of some surveys. Face to face data collection has been suspended as a result of COVID-19.

Statement of Financial Position

Trade and other receivables	Trade and other receivables are $13.3m lower than the original budget due to the reduction in revenue from COVID-19.
Buildings	Buildings are $148.3m over budget due to the implementation of AASB 16 *Leases* which occurred after the budget.
Leasehold improvements, and Plant and equipment	Leasehold improvements and plant and equipment are $5.3m lower than the original budget due to delays in hardware delivery as a result of COVID-19.
Prepayments	Prepayments ($6.1m greater than the original budget) primarily relate to the recognition of software licences, maintenance contracts and subscriptions. The variance is mainly due to the timing for these payments.
Suppliers payable	Suppliers payable are $3.2m lower than budget due to COVID-19, and a move to 20-day payment terms from 1 July 2019.
Other payables	Other payables are $7.2m lower than the original budget due to the removal of lease incentives with the implementation of AASB 16 *Leases*. The impact of AASB 16 was unknown when the budget was set.
Leases	Leases are $151.9m over budget due to the implementation of AASB 16 *Leases* which occurred after the budget.
Employee leave provisions	Employee leave provisions are $12.5m higher than budget primarily due to the impact of the reduction in the bond rate and less leave taken as a result of COVID-19.

Statement of Changes in Equity and Cash Flow Statement

The variances in the Statement of Changes in Equity and Cash Flow Statement are primarily the flow on effect from the events described above.

1. Financial Performance

This section analyses the financial performance of the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the year ended 30 June 2020.

1.1 Expenses

	2020	2019
	$'000	$'000
Note 1.1A: Employee Benefits		
Wages and salaries		
ABS staff	**218,264**	193,674
Interviewers	**13,257**	15,370
Census field staff	**273**	-
Total wages and salaries	**231,794**	209,044
Superannuation		
Defined contribution plans		
ABS staff	**24,852**	21,040
Interviewers	**1,909**	2,291
Census field staff	**53**	-
Total defined contribution plans	**26,814**	23,331
Defined benefit plans		
ABS staff	**19,041**	18,448
Interviewers	**469**	585
Total defined benefit plans	**19,510**	19,033
Leave and other entitlements	**28,118**	32,345
Separation and redundancies	**1,291**	490
Other employee expenses	**1,058**	831
Total employee benefits	**308,585**	285,074

Accounting Policy

Liabilities for 'short-term employee benefits' (as defined in AASB 119 *Employee Benefits*) and termination benefits due within twelve months of the end of the reporting period are measured at their nominal amounts.

The nominal amount is calculated with regard to the rates expected to be paid on settlement of the liability.

Other long-term employee benefits are measured as net total of the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the end of the reporting period minus the fair value at the end of the reporting period of plan assets (if any) out of which the obligations are to be settled directly.

<u>Leave</u>

The liability for employee benefits includes provision for annual leave and long service leave. No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting and the average sick leave taken in future years by employees of the ABS is estimated to be less than the annual entitlement for sick leave.

The leave liabilities are calculated on the basis of employees' remuneration at the estimated salary rates that will apply at the time the leave is taken, plus the ABS' employer superannuation contribution rates and applicable on-costs, to the extent that the leave is likely to be taken during service rather than paid out on termination.

An independent actuarial valuation of employee benefit liabilities is conducted every three years. The liability for long service leave and annual leave has been determined by reference to the work of the Australian Government Actuary (AGA) as at 30 June 2020. The estimate of the present value of the liability takes into account attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation.

<u>Separation and Redundancy</u>

Provision is made for separation and redundancy benefit payments. The ABS recognises a provision for termination when it has developed a detailed formal plan for the terminations and has informed those employees affected that it will carry out the terminations.

<u>Superannuation</u>

The ABS' staff are members of the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS), the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (PSS), the PSS accumulation plan (PSSap) or other superannuation funds held outside the Australian Government.

The CSS and PSS are defined benefit schemes for the Australian Government. The PSSap is a defined contribution scheme.

The liability for defined benefits is recognised in the financial statements of the Australian Government and is settled by the Australian Government in due course. This liability is reported in the Department of Finance's administered schedules and notes.

The ABS makes employer contributions to the employees' superannuation scheme at rates determined by an actuary to be sufficient to meet the current cost to the Government, and accounts for the contributions as if they were contributions to defined contribution plans.

The liability for superannuation recognised as at 30 June represents outstanding contributions for the final fortnight of the year.

	2020	2019
	$'000	$'000
Note 1.1B: Suppliers		
Goods and services		
Consultants[1]	**5,919**	7,317
Contractors	**30,343**	15,770
IT services and communications	**22,617**	23,428
Printing and subscriptions	**2,154**	2,161
Building expenses (excluding lease payments)	**7,196**	7,267
Population survey operations interviewer[1]	**2**	8
Census operation costs	**118**	-
Recruitment and employment related	**731**	791
Stationery and postage	**1,695**	1,777

Travel[1]	**9,428**	16,185
Training	**2,388**	3,416
Advertising	**283**	273
Other[1]	**3,348**	2,670
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	**86,222**	81,063
Goods and services are made of:		
Goods supplied	**5,672**	6,508
Services rendered	**80,550**	74,555
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	**86,222**	81,063
Other suppliers		
Operating lease rentals[2]	**233**	16,249
Workers compensation expenses	**1,430**	3,948
Total other suppliers	**1,663**	20,197
Total suppliers	**87,885**	101,260

1. The mapping of suppliers expenses by category has been reviewed and updated including for comparatives. In 2018-19, $5.450 million of travel expenses relating to the Population survey officers/interviewers were included in the Population survey operations interviewer, and $0.355 million of legal expenses were included in Other expenses. In 2019-20, these expense were remapped to Travel and Consultants respectively. There was no impact on the operating result.

2. The ABS has applied AASB 16 using the modified retrospective approach and therefore the comparative information has not been restated and continues to be reported under AASB 117.

The above lease disclosures should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes 1.1C, 1.2B, 2.2A and 2.4.

The ABS had no short-term lease commitments as at 30 June 2020.

Accounting Policy

Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets

The ABS has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for short-term leases of assets that have a lease term of 12 months or less and leases of low-value assets (less than $10,000). The ABS recognises the lease payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

	2020	2019
	$'000	$'000
Note 1.1C: Finance Costs		
Interest on lease liabilities[1]	**1,950**	-
Unwinding of discount	**2**	11
Total finance costs	**1,952**	11

1. Interest on lease liabilities relates to the interest expense recognised as the lease liability is discharged. The ABS has applied AASB 16 using the modified retrospective approach, and comparative information has not been restated.

has applied AASB 16 using the modified retrospective approach, and comparative information has not been restated and continues to be reported under AASB 117.

The above lease disclosures should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes 1.1B, 1.2B, 2.2A and 2.4.

Note 1.1D: Write-Down and Impairment of Other Assets

Impairment of intangibles[1]	**21,374**	1,984
Write-down of property, plant and equipment[2]	**566**	344
Write-down of Intangibles[3]	**1,392**	1,736
Total write-down and impairment of other assets	**23,332**	4,064

1. This amount relates to the impairment provision of Internally Generated Software (IGSW) assets reflecting the uncertainty around the future usability of the Statistical Business Transformation Program Stream 4 capabilities.

2. This amount represents the write-off of a number of Property, Plant and Equipment assets due to obsolescence.

3. This amount represents the write-off of a number of IGSW assets due to technological obsolescence.

1.2 Own-Source Revenue and Gains

	2020	2019
	$'000	$'000
Note 1.2A: Revenue from contracts with customers		
Rendering of services	**33,282**	47,839
Total revenue from contracts with customers	**33,282**	47,839
Disaggregation of revenue from contracts with customers		
Major product / service line:		
User funded surveys	**20,161**	37,606
Data subscriptions	**1,392**	2,144
Statistical consultancies	**11,729**	8,089
	33,282	47,839
Type of customer:		
Australian Government entities (related parties)	**27,858**	40,630
State and Territory Governments	**2,714**	2,648
Non-government entities	**2,710**	4,561
	33,282	47,839
Timing of transfer of goods and services:		
Over time	**33,282**	47,839
Point in time	**-**	-
	33,282	47,839

Accounting Policy

Revenue from the rendering of services is recognised in accordance with AASB 15 and AASB 1058.

The major streams of rendering of services revenue are associated with user funded surveys, consultancies and the provision of subscription services. The ABS applies the five-step revenue recognition model in determining the recognition of revenue. This is described below.

recognition of revenue. This is described below:

Step 1: Identify the contract with the customer

Step 2: Identify the performance obligations

Step 3: Determine the transaction price

Step 4: Allocate the transaction price to the performance obligations in the contract

Step 5: Recognise revenue when or as the entity satisfies a performance obligation

The transaction price is the total amount of consideration to which the ABS expects to be entitled in exchange for transferring promised goods or services to a customer. The consideration promised in a contract with a customer may include fixed amounts, variable amounts, or both.

The ABS recognises revenue over time for user funded surveys where the survey is considered a report specifically for the user which the ABS does not have an alternative use for; and it has an enforceable right to payment for work performed. The ABS uses an input method based on the costs expected to measure the revenue.

The ABS recognises revenue at a point in time for user funded surveys when the performance obligations, as per the contract are met.

Consultancies and the provision of subscription services revenue are recognised over time as the customer simultaneously receives and consumes the benefits as they are provided.

Where a revenue stream does not meet the scope of AASB 15, the ABS has considered its treatment under AASB 1058. An example of revenue recognised under AASB 1058 is the resources received free of charge received by the ABS from the Australian National Audit Office providing Audit Services. The services are recognised as revenue at a point in time when services are delivered.

Receivables for goods and services, which have 30-day terms, are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any impairment allowance account. Collectability of debts is reviewed at end of the reporting period. Allowances are made when collectability of the debt is no longer probable.

	2020	2019
	$'000	$'000
Note 1.2B: Rental Income		
Operating lease		
Lease income[1]	173	-
Total rental income	173	-

1. The ABS has applied AASB 16 using the modified retrospective approach and therefore the comparative information has not been restated and continues to be reported under AASB 117.

Operating Leases

The ABS subleases part of the Adelaide and Perth offices to other Commonwealth entities. In this arrangement, the ABS continues to bear all the risks and rewards of the underlying lease, and recognise rental income.

Maturity analysis of operating lease income receivables:	
	2020
	$'000
Within 1 year	735
One to two years	762
Two to three years	793
Three to four years	826
Four to five years	258
More than 5 years	661

More than 5 years	661
Total undiscounted lease payments receivable	**4,035**

The above lease disclosures should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes 2.2A and 2.4.

	2020	2019
	$'000	$'000
Note 1.2C: Other Revenue		
Resources received free of charge[1]	**2,957**	560
Other[2]	**205**	284
Total other revenue	**3,162**	844

1. This amount relates to the services received free of charge ($0.126 million) for the financial statements audit, staff secondment from the Australian Taxation Office ($0.220 million), and the recognition of non-cash services ($2.606 million) contributed as part of a project.

2. Other revenue consists primarily of proceeds from the sale of assets, rebates, and refunds during the financial year.

Accounting Policy

Resources received free of charge

Resources received free of charge are recognised as revenue when, and only when, a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would have been purchased if they had not been donated. Use of those resources is recognised as an expense. Resources received free of charge are recorded as either revenue or gains depending on their nature.

Other revenue

Other revenue includes all miscellaneous revenue such as various refunds including Comcare premium adjustments.

Sale of assets

Gains from disposal of non-current assets are recognised when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

Note 1.2D: Unsatisfied Obligations

The ABS expects to recognise as income any liability for unsatisfied obligations associated with revenue from contracts with customers within the following periods:

	2020	2019
	$'000	$'000
Within one year	**34,597**	31,194
One to two years	**1,354**	3,597
Total as at 30 June 2020	**35,951**	34,791

Refer to the Accounting Policy Note 2.3B: Other Payables - Unearned revenue for detail.

2. Financial Position

This section analyses the Australian Bureau of Statistics's assets used to generate its financial performance and operating liabilities incurred as a result.

Leasehold improvements and plant and equipment are carried at fair value in accordance with AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement.* The remaining assets and liabilities disclosed in the statement of financial position do not apply the fair value hierarchy.

Employee related information is disclosed in the People and Relationships section.

2.1 Financial Assets

	2020	2019
	$'000	$'000
Note 2.1A: Trade and Other Receivables		
Appropriations receivable	**74,562**	65,904
Receivable from government[1]	**2,377**	-
Goods and services	**2,503**	2,556
GST receivable from the Australian Taxation Office	**2,851**	2,080
Other receivables	**424**	634
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	**82,717**	71,174
Less impairment loss allowance	**(6)**	(6)
Total trade and other receivables (net)	**82,711**	71,168

Credit terms for goods and services were within 30 days (2019: 30 days).

All trade and other receivables are expected to be recovered in no more than 12 months.

1. In 2019-20, as a result of a Government decision, the ABS accrued $2.377 million for Equity Injections which will be appropriated in the 2020-21 Budget Appropriation Bills.

Reconciliation of the Impairment Allowance Amount:

Movements in relation to 2020

	Goods and services	Total
	$'000	$'000
Opening balance	**(6)**	**(6)**
Amounts written off	**2**	**2**
Increase/decrease recognised in net surplus	**(2)**	**(2)**
Closing balance	**(6)**	**(6)**

Accounting Policy

Trade receivable

Trade receivables, loans and other receivables that are held for the purpose of collecting the contractual cash flows where the cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest, that are not provided at below-market interest

rates, are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method adjusted for any loss allowance.

Appropriations receivable

Refer to Revenue from Government for accounting policy.

Impairment of financial assets

Trade and other receivables assets at amortised cost are assessed for impairment at the end of each reporting period. The simplified approach has been adopted in measuring the impairment loss allowance at an amount equal to lifetime expected credit loss.

2.2 Non-Financial Assets

Note 2.2A: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Property, Plant & Equipment and Intangibles

	Leasehold improvements	Buildings	Plant and equipment	Computer software[3]	Total
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
As at 1 July 2019					
Gross book value	33,850	-	27,821	243,574	305,245
Work in progress	282	-	61	26,971	27,314
Accumulated depreciation, amortisation and impairment	-	-	(9,650)	(163,806)	(173,456)
Total as at 1 July 2019	34,132	-	18,232	106,739	159,103
Recognition of right-of-use asset on initial application of AASB 16[1]	-	164,776	9	-	164,785
Adjusted total as at 1 July 2019	34,132	164,776	18,241	106,739	323,888
Additions					
Purchased	416	-	6,290	637	7,343
Internally developed	-	-	-	28,722	28,722
Right-of-use assets	-	1,114	98	-	1,212
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive income[2]	754	-	518	-	1,272
Impairments recognised in net cost of services	(41)	-	(525)	(22,766)	(23,332)
Depreciation and amortisation	(4,363)	-	(7,339)	(17,788)	(29,490)
Depreciation on right-of-use assets	-	(17,550)	(15)	-	(17,565)
Reclassification	23	-	(135)	112	-
Total as at 30 June 2020	30,921	148,340	17,133	95,656	292,050
Total as at 30 June 2020 represented by					
Gross book value	35,044	165,890	31,654	236,141	468,729
Work in progress	240	-	1,205	40,286	41,731
Accumulated depreciation, amortisation and impairment	(4,363)	(17,550)	(15,726)	(180,771)	(218,410)

Total as at 30 June 2020	30,921	148,340	17,133	95,656	292,050
Carrying amount of right-of-use assets	-	148,340	92	-	148,432

1. Right-of-use assets under AASB16 Leases relating to office leases and motor vehicle leases are included in Buildings, and Plant and equipment respectively.
2. An independent valuer reviewed the carrying value of assets and the increase were $0.754 million in leasehold improvements (2019: decrease of $1.020 million); and $0.518 million in plant and equipment (2019: Nil). The make good provision was revalued and increased by $0.465 million which is disclosed in Note 2.5A Other Provisions. Additionally, new make good provisions of $0.416 million were recognised for two leases, and reflected as additions.
3. The carrying amount of computer software include $88.850 million internally generated software and $6.806 million purchased software. The ABS engaged an independent reviewer to assess impairment of internally generated software. The impairment result of $22.766 million (2019: $1.984 million) is reflected in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Contractual commitments for the acquisition of property, plant, equipment and intangible assets

Capital commitments relate to contracts for the acquisition of property, plant, equipment and intangible assets.

Commitments are GST exclusive where relevant.

	2020	2019
	$'000	$'000
Capital Commitments		
Plant and equipment	3,639	925
Intangibles	2,940	8,551
Total commitments	**6,579**	9,476

All capital commitments are payable within 12 months, except for $0.019 million in plant and equipment (2019: $3.983 million in intangibles) which are payable within 1 to 5 years.

Accounting Policy

Acquisition of Assets

Assets are recorded at cost on acquisition except as stated below. The cost of acquisition includes the fair value of assets transferred in exchange and liabilities undertaken. Financial assets are initially measured at their fair value plus transaction costs where appropriate.

Assets acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration, are initially recognised as assets and income at their fair value at the date of acquisition, unless acquired as a consequence of restructuring of administrative arrangements. In the latter case, assets are initially recognised as contributions by owners at the amounts at which they were recognised in the transferor's accounts immediately prior to the restructuring.

Asset Recognition Threshold

Purchases of plant and equipment are recognised initially at cost in the statement of financial position. In 2019-20, the ABS increased the class thresholds to $10,000 for IT Hardware (2018-19: $7,000) and $10,000 for Plant and equipment (2018-19: $7,000). The table below summarises the asset recognition thresholds for 2019-20:

Asset Class	Unit Threshold[1]	Class Threshold
IT hardware[1]	$1,000	$10,000
Plant and equipment	$1,000	$10,000
Leasehold improvements	$1,000	$30,000

1. Laptops are excluded from the Unit Threshold.

The initial cost of an asset includes an estimate of the cost of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located. This is particularly relevant to 'make good' provisions in property leases taken up by the ABS where there exists an obligation to restore the property to its original condition. These costs are included in the value of the ABS' leasehold improvements with a corresponding provision for the 'make good' recognised.

Lease Right-of-Use (ROU) Assets

Leased ROU assets are capitalised at the commencement date of the lease and comprise of the initial lease liability amount, initial direct costs incurred when entering into the lease less any lease incentives received. These assets are accounted for by Commonwealth lessees as separate asset classes to corresponding assets owned outright, but included in the same column as where the corresponding underlying assets would be presented if they were owned.

On initial adoption of AASB 16 the ABS has adjusted the ROU assets at the date of initial application by the amount of any provision for onerous leases recognised immediately before the date of initial application. Following initial application, an impairment review is undertaken for any right of use lease asset that shows indicators of impairment and an impairment loss is recognised against any right of use lease asset that is impaired. Lease ROU assets continue to be measured at cost after initial recognition in Commonwealth agency, GGS and Whole of Government financial statements.

Revaluations

Following initial recognition at cost, property, plant and equipment are carried at fair value (or an amount not materially different from fair value) less subsequent accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Valuations are conducted with sufficient frequency to ensure that the carrying amounts of assets did not differ materially from the assets' fair values as at the reporting date. The regularity of independent valuations depends upon the volatility of movements in market values for the relevant assets.

Revaluation adjustments are made on a class basis. Any revaluation increment is credited to equity under the heading of asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that it reversed a previous revaluation decrement of the same asset class that was previously recognised in the surplus/deficit. Revaluation decrements for a class of assets are recognised directly in the surplus/deficit except to the extent that they reversed a previous revaluation increment for that class.Any accumulated depreciation as at the revaluation date is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the asset restated to the revalued amount.

Depreciation

Depreciable property, plant and equipment assets are written-off to their estimated residual values over their estimated useful lives to the ABS using, in all cases, the straight-line method of depreciation. Depreciation rates (useful lives), residual values and methods are reviewed at each reporting date and necessary adjustments are recognised in the current, or current and future reporting periods, as appropriate.

Depreciation rates applying to each class of depreciable asset are based on the following useful lives:

2020 2019

Leasehold improvements Lease term Lease term
Property, plant and equipment 4-10 years* 4-10 years*
* Within this class, Artwork and Curios have a useful life between 10-100 years.
The depreciation rates for ROU assets are based on the commencement date to the earlier of the end of the useful life of the ROU asset or the end of the lease term.

Impairment

All assets were assessed for indications of impairment at 30 June 2020. Where indications of impairment exist, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated and an impairment loss recognised if the asset's recoverable amount is less than its carrying amount. The impairment result is reflected in the Statement of Comprehensive Income in accordance with AASB 136 *Impairment of Assets*.

The recoverable amount of an asset is the higher of its fair value less costs of disposal and its value in use. Value in use is the present value of the future cash flows expected to be derived from the asset. Where the future economic benefit of an asset is not primarily dependent on the asset's ability to generate future cash flows, and the asset would be replaced if the ABS were deprived of the asset, its value in use is taken to be its depreciated replacement cost.

Derecognition

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no further future economic benefits are expected from its use or disposal.

Intangibles

The ABS' intangibles comprise purchased and internally developed software for internal use. These assets are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. Software assets were assessed for indications of impairment as at 30 June 2020. Refer to Note 1.1D: Write-Down and Impairment of Other Assets for further detail.

Internally Generated Software

The ABS builds and maintains a significant set of internally generated software assets (IGSW) assets.
All software developed in-house are capitalised in accordance with the asset recognition threshold. The costing methodology capitalises direct salary and on costs for programmers. General administration and overhead costs relating to software development are not capitalised. The data capture systems in place to collect effort recording data for programmers are in line with the requirements of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015*.

Asset Recognition Threshold

Purchases of intangible assets are recognised initially at cost in the Statement of Financial Position, except for purchases costing less than the following thresholds, which are expensed in the year of acquisition. The recognition thresholds for intangible assets are summarised below:

Asset Class	Unit Threshold	Class Threshold
Purchased software	$1,000	$50,000

Internally generated software	NA	$300,000

Amortisation

Software is amortised on a straight-line basis over its anticipated useful life.

The ABS has long term commitments to survey and data collection programs. These are supported by software packages that are required to be maintained for the same time period as the data collection and analysis programs, to ensure consistency in approach and of data treatment.

The useful lives of the ABS' software are:

2020 2019

Computer software (purchased) 5 years* 5 years*

Computer software (internally generated) 5-15 years* 5-15 years*

* The above table outlines the range of life in years for computer software, however, the average life is currently 10 years (2019: 10 years).

Capital Work in Progress

Capital work in progress represents two main asset types: software assets under development, and office refurbishments. Work in progress is disclosed in the intangibles, and property, plant and equipment balances respectively.

Software assets are not amortised until the year in which the development phase is completed and the asset is operational. Where use of the asset commences after substantial completion of the development phase, but some improvements or enhancements to the system continue to be made, the date of substantial completion is treated as the date of completion and amortisation commences from that date.

2.3 Payables

	2020	2019
	$'000	$'000
Note 2.3A: Suppliers		
Trade creditors and accruals	**23,121**	15,013
Operating lease rentals[1]	**-**	7,670
Total suppliers payables	**23,121**	22,683

Settlement is usually made within 20 days (2019: 30 days).

1. The ABS has applied AASB 16 using the modified retrospective approach and therefore the comparative information has not been restated and continues to be reported under AASB 117.

Accounting Policy

Suppliers and Other Payables

Suppliers and other payables are recognised at amortised cost. Liabilities are recognised to the extent that the goods or services have been received (and irrespective of having been invoiced). Supplier and payables are derecognised upon payment.

Note 2.3B: Other Payables

Salaries and wages	**4,684**	1,952

Superannuation	**643**	335
Separations and redundancies	**-**	144
Lease incentives[1]	**-**	6,120
Unearned revenue	**35,951**	34,791
Other	**837**	802
Total other payables	**42,115**	44,144

1. The ABS has applied AASB 16 using the modified retrospective approach and therefore the comparative information has not been restated and continues to be reported under AASB 117.

Accounting Policy

<u>Salaries and wages, Superannuation, Separations and redundancies</u>

Refer to Note 1.1A: Employee Benefits for detail.

<u>Unearned revenue</u>

Unearned revenue includes revenue from provision of statistical consultancies and revenue from other entities for statistical surveys. The unearned revenue is recognised over time as services are provided. Refer to Note 1.2D: Unsatisfied Obligations for detail.

2.4 Leases

Lease liabilities relate to the ABS office space leases and fleet motor vehicles leases.

Total cash outflow for leases for the year ended 30 June 2020 was $14.633 million[1].

1. The ABS has applied AASB 16 using the modified retrospective approach and therefore the comparative information has not been restated and continues to be reported under AASB 117.

Accounting Policy

Refer to the Overview section for accounting policy on AASB 16 *Leases*.

2.5 Provisions

[Note 2.5A: Reconciliation Other Provisions](#)

	Make good provision
	$'000
As at 1 July 2019	534
Additional provisions made	881
Unwinding of discount or change in discount rate	2
Total as at 30 June 2020	1,417

The ABS currently has five agreements (2019: two) for the leasing of premises which have provisions requiring the ABS to restore the premises to their original condition at the conclusion of the lease. The ABS has made a provision to reflect the present value of these obligations.

Significant Accounting Judgements and Estimates

<u>Make good</u>

The ABS currently holds 11 leases for office space around Australia. Five lease agreements include make good clauses.

Provision for make good liability is made where it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation and the amount can be reliably determined. The provision represents the estimated costs of making good leasehold premises in accordance with AASB 137 *Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets.*

3. Funding

This section identifies the Australian Bureau of Statistics' funding structure.

3.1 Appropriations

Note 3.1A: Annual Appropriations ('Recoverable GST exclusive')

Annual Appropriations for 2020

	Annual Appropriation	Receipts retained under PGPA Act - Section 74	Total appropriation	Appropriation applied (current and prior years)	Variance[2]
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Departmental					
Ordinary annual services	378,506	38,661	417,167	404,956	12,211
Capital Budget[1]	14,494	-	14,494	14,230	264
Other services					
Equity Injections	6,218	-	6,218	9,148	(2,930)
Total departmental	399,218	38,661	437,879	428,334	9,545

1. Departmental Capital Budgets (DCB) are appropriated through Appropriation Acts (No. 1, 3 and 5). They form part of the ordinary annual services, and are not separately identified in the Appropriation Acts.

2. The variance represents undrawn current year appropriations, and the negative variance represents prior year appropriations applied in the current year.

Annual Appropriations for 2019

	Annual Appropriation	Receipts retained under PGPA Act - Section 74	Total appropriation	Appropriation applied (current and prior years)	Variance[4]
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Departmental					
Ordinary annual services[1]	335,563	47,885	383,448	384,374	(926)
Capital Budget[2]	14,349	-	14,349	22,192	(7,843)

Other services					
Equity Injections[3]	19,970	-	19,970	24,238	(4,268)
Total departmental	369,882	47,885	417,767	430,804	(13,037)

1. Revenue from Government reported in the Statement of Comprehensive Income is $330.246 million, $5.317 million less than appropriated. The difference relates to the recognition of $5.317 million in 2017-18 through the departmental supplementation process.

2. Departmental Capital Budgets (DCB) are appropriated through Appropriation Acts (No. 1, 3 and 5). They form part of the ordinary annual services, and are not separately identified in the Appropriation Acts.

3. The equity injection amount in the Statement of Changes in Equity excludes $6.368 million for capital budget recognised in 2017-18.

4. The negative variance represents prior year appropriations applied in the current year.

Note 3.1B: Unspent Annual Appropriations ('Recoverable GST exclusive')

	2020	2019
	$'000	$'000
Departmental		
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2018-19	**-**	52,427
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2018-19 - Capital Budget (DCB) - Non Operating	**-**	4,213
Appropriation Act (No. 2) 2018-19 - Non Operating - Equity Injection	**-**	2,829
Appropriation Act (No. 3) 2018-19 - Operating	**-**	6,334
Appropriation Act (No. 4) 2018-19 - Non Operating - Equity Injection	**-**	101
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2019-20	**70,085**	-
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2019-20 - Capital Budget (DCB) - Non Operating	**4,477**	-
Cash at bank	**6,087**	5,200
Total departmental	**80,649**	71,104

3.2 Net Cash Appropriation Arrangements

Note 3.2A: Net Cash Appropriation Arrangements

	2020	2019
	$'000	$'000
Total comprehensive income less depreciation/ amortisation expenses previously funded through revenue appropriations	**(18,428)**	(12,487)
Plus: depreciation/amortisation expenses previously funded through revenue appropriation	**(29,490)**	(33,758)
Plus: depreciation right-of-use assets	**(17,565)**	-

~~Plus: depreciation right-of-use assets~~		
Less: principal repayments - leased assets	**12,683**	-
Total comprehensive loss - as per the Statement of Comprehensive Income	**(52,800)**	(46,245)

From 2010-11, the Government introduced net cash appropriation arrangements where revenue appropriations for depreciation/amortisation expenses ceased. Entities now receive a separate capital budget provided through equity appropriations. Capital budgets are to be appropriated in the period when cash payment for capital expenditure is required.

The inclusion of depreciation/amortisation expenses related to ROU leased assets and the lease liability principle repayment amount reflects the cash impact on implementation of AASB 16 *Leases*, it does not directly reflect a change in appropriation arrangements.

4. People and Relationships

This section describes a range of employment and post-employment benefits provided to our people and our relationships with other key people.

4.1 Key Management Personnel Remuneration

Key management personnel (KMP) are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the entity, directly or indirectly, including any director (whether executive or otherwise) of the ABS.

In 2019-20, there were no officers acting in a KMP position for a continuous period of 12 weeks or more. Three officers were identified as acting in a KMP position for less than 12 weeks. It was confirmed that in the duration of their acting arrangements, they had not undertaken any significant decision making that would qualify them for inclusion as KMP for the purposes of this disclosure.

	2020	2019
	$'000	$'000
Short-term employee benefits		
Base Salary	**1,784**	1,717
Other benefits and allowances[1]	**8**	15
Total Short-term employee benefits	**1,792**	1,732
Post-employment benefits - Superannuation	**295**	276
Other long-term benefits - Long Service Leave	**109**	131
Total key management remuneration expenses[2]	**2,196**	2,139

1. Other benefits and allowances include car parking and related fringe benefits tax, and other allowances. The 2019 comparative has been amended by reclassifying an amount of $0.137 million from other benefits and allowances to base salary to more accurately reflect the nature of the employee benefit provided. Refer to the Accounting Policy section in Note 1.1A: Employee Benefits for more detail.

2. The Portfolio Minister and Cabinet Ministers are KMPs of the ABS, however their benefits are not paid by the ABS, and are disclosed in the Australian Government's Consolidated Financial Statements.

3. The total number of KMP that are included in the above table is five, consisting of two Australian Statisticians and three Deputy Australian Statisticians (2019: four). In 2019-20, there was a change in the Australian Statistician with one separating on 10 December 2019, and other appointed on 11 December 2019.

4.2 Related Party Disclosures

AASB 124 *Related Party Disclosures* requires the ABS to disclose transactions with its related parties. Where KMP has an association with an entity where a conflict has the potential to arise, in addition to the duty to disclose that association, the KMP absents him/herself from both the discussion and the decision-making process.

Related Party Relationships

The ABS is an Australian Government controlled entity. Related parties of the ABS include but are not limited to:

  KMPs as outlined in 4.1;

  Close family members of KMPs; and

  Organisations controlled by KMPs and their close family members.

Related parties to the ABS also include the Portfolio Minister, Cabinet Ministers and other Australian Government entities.

Transactions with Related Parties

Given the breadth of Government activities, related parties may transact with the government sector in the same

Given the breadth of Government activities, related parties may transact with the government sector in the same capacity as ordinary citizens. Such transactions include the payment or refund of taxes, receipt of a Medicare rebate or higher education loans. These transactions are not disclosed in this note.

There were no transactions, procurements, loans, grants, guarantees or debts forgiven to any KMP or their close family members or organisation controlled by these KMP and/or by their close family members. Transactions with KMP related entities that occur in the normal course of the ABS' operations are incidental and conducted on terms no more favourable than similar transactions with other employees or customers. Any vendor relationships with such entities are at arm's length and comply with the ABS' procurement policy.

All transactions were conducted under normal terms and conditions and exclude the GST.

5. Managing Uncertainties

This section analyses how the Australian Bureau of Statistics manages the financial risks within its operating environment.

5.1 Contingent Assets and Liabilities

The ABS did not have any contingent assets or liabilities at 30 June 2020 for departmental and administered (2019: Nil).

5.2 Financial Instruments

	2020	2019
	$'000	$'000
Note 5.2A: Categories of Financial Instruments		
Financial assets at amortised cost		
Cash and cash equivalents	**6,087**	5,200
Trade and other receivables	**2,921**	3,184
Total financial assets at amortised cost	**9,008**	8,384
Total financial assets	**9,008**	8,384
Financial Liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost		
Trade creditors and accruals	**23,121**	15,013
Total financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	**23,121**	15,013
Total financial liabilities	**23,121**	15,013
Note 5.2B: Net Losses on Financial Assets		
Financial assets at amortised cost		
Impairment	**2**	8
Net gains on financial assets at amortised cost	**2**	8

Accounting Policy

Financial Assets

The ABS classifies its financial assets in the following categories:

a) financial assets at fair value through profit or loss;

b) financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income; and

c) financial assets measured at amortised cost.

The classification depends on both the ABS' business model for managing the financial assets and contractual cash flow characteristics at the time of initial recognition. Financial assets are recognised when the entity becomes a party to the contract and, as a consequence, has a legal right to receive or a legal obligation to pay cash and derecognised when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are transferred upon trade date.

The ABS classifies and recognises its financial assets, and financial liabilities at amortised cost.

Financial Assets at Amortised Cost

Financial assets included in this category need to meet two criteria:

Financial assets included in this category need to meet two criteria.

1. the financial asset is held in order to collect the contractual cash flows; and

2. the cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest (SPPI) on the principal outstanding amount.

Amortised cost is determined using the effective interest method.

<u>Effective Interest Method</u>

Income is recognised on an effective interest rate basis for financial assets that are recognised at amortised cost.

<u>Impairment of Financial Assets</u>

Financial assets are assessed for impairment at the end of each reporting period based on Expected Credit Losses, using the general approach which measures the loss allowance based on an amount equal to lifetime expected credit losses where risk has significantly increased, or an amount equal to 12-month expected credit losses if risk has not increased.

The simplified approach for trade, contract and lease receivables is used. This approach always measures the loss allowance as the amount equal to the lifetime expected credit losses.

A write-off constitutes a derecognition event where the write-off directly reduces the gross carrying amount of the financial asset.

<u>Financial Liabilities</u>

Financial liabilities are classified as either financial liabilities at 'fair value through profit or loss' or other financial liabilities.

Financial liabilities are recognised and derecognised upon 'trade date'.

<u>Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost</u>

Financial liabilities, including borrowings, are initially measured at fair value, net of transaction costs. These liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with interest expense recognised on an effective interest basis.

Supplier and other payables are recognised at amortised cost. Liabilities are recognised to the extent that the goods or services have been received (and irrespective of having been invoiced).

All payables are expected to be settled within 12 months except where indicated.

6. Other Information

6.1 Aggregate Assets and Liabilities

	2020	2019
	$'000	$'000
Note 6.1A: Aggregate Assets and Liabilities		
Assets expected to be recovered in:		
No more than 12 months	**98,502**	83,519
More than 12 months	**295,287**	166,084
Total assets	**393,789**	249,603
Liabilities expected to be settled in:		
No more than 12 months	**105,488**	76,433
More than 12 months	**221,935**	90,882
Total liabilities	**327,423**	167,315

Introduction

As an agency of the Australian Government, the ABS is accountable to the Parliament, and ultimately to the public, through the Treasury ministers, the Parliamentary committee process, and the tabling of its annual report.

As the Accountable Authority for the ABS, the Australian Statistician is required to establish and maintain an appropriate system of risk oversight and management for the ABS. This includes an appropriate system of internal controls which sets out corporate governance structures and processes. These controls assist ABS staff members to undertake their responsibilities in a way that meets community expectations of public accountability, probity, and transparency.

Corporate governance arrangements ensure the effective operation of the ABS, including transparent decision-making, accountable leadership, sound risk management, and effective planning and review processes.

Governance fora

An important feature of ABS corporate governance is the role played by governance boards, councils, groups and committees. These fora provide critical avenues for decision making, seeking and providing advice, and facilitating consultation and information sharing. Activities undertaken by ABS governance committees include: reviewing and approving policies and strategies; identifying ABS priorities; assessing and responding to risks; oversighting the implementation of new or revised controls, and monitoring performance.

The major governance fora in place for 2019–20 are outlined in Table 6.1.

Table 6.1: Governance fora 2019-20

Primary governance boards
Executive Board
The Executive Board supports the Australian Statistician to provide leadership and strategic oversight of the ABS. It also assists the Australian Statistician, as the authorised decision maker under the PGPA Act, to determine direction, policy, priorities, and to ensure the efficient, economical and ethical operations of the ABS.
Audit Committee
The ABS Audit Committee provides independent assurance and assistance to the Australian Statistician on financial and performance reporting responsibilities, risk oversight and management, and the system of internal controls, including those applied to ensure legislative compliance and the execution of ABS functions.
Sub-Committees to the ABS Executive Board
Data Innovations and Statistical Strategy Committee
The Data Innovations and Statistical Strategy Committee guides the strategic direction of the statistical program and drives data and statistical innovation in the ABS.
People Committee
The People Committee is responsible for monitoring, prioritisation and operational decisions associated with people, capability and partnership functions. It includes representatives from each of the ABS diversity networks.
Security Committee
The Security Committee is responsible for ensuring the ABS complies with its legal and legislative requirements related to security. It ensures there are adequate internal policies, guidelines and effective practices which meet the security and privacy related requirements of relevant government policy.
Resource Prioritisation Committee
The Resource Prioritisation Committee is responsible for planning, prioritisation, and allocation of resources. The Committee oversees the effective planning and allocation of resources and expenditure, and addresses matters of risk, privacy and functions of the Enterprise Program Management Office.

Advisory committees

Australian Statistics Advisory Council

The Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC) is the ABS' key advisory body, established under the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*. ASAC provides independent advice to the Minister responsible for the ABS and the Australian Statistician on improvement of statistical services, longer-term statistical priorities, and other relevant matters. It also reports to the Parliament annually.

Statistical Business Transformation Program Executive Board

The Statistical Business Transformation Program (SBTP) was the flagship transformation initiative of the ABS. This board was established to provide high-level independent advice and guidance to the Australian Statistician. The Board had overarching visibility of the SBTP and was responsible for advising on investment decisions and associated commitments to government, ensuring the alignment of the SBTP with the strategic direction and goals of the ABS. The SBTP closed on 30 June 2020 and the Program Executive Board was disbanded.

Statistical Business Transformation Program Delivery Board

The Statistical Business Transformation Program (SBTP) Delivery Board was responsible for driving the program and delivering outcomes and benefits. This includes: formulating the yearly program and recommending the program to the SBTP Executive Board; defining the acceptable risk profile and risk thresholds for the program; and ensuring that the program delivers within its agreed boundaries. This Delivery Board was also disbanded with the closure of the Program.

2021 Census Executive Board

The 2021 Census Board provides advice to help achieve the 2021 Census Program objectives. It monitors the planning, development, operation, and delivery of the 2021 Census Program.

2021 Census Delivery Committee

The 2021 Census Delivery Committee is responsible for providing advice, and monitoring and reviewing preparations for the 2021 Census, including: adherence to the agreed design principles; determining whether delivery elements are within the agreed scope and budget; monitoring risks and response plans; securing the input and agreement of senior stakeholders to ensure progress of the program; assuring operational stability and effectiveness; and monitoring privacy and security plans.

Disclosure Review Committee

The Disclosure Review Committee (DRC) advises the Chief Methodologist on the disclosure risks and mitigation strategies associated with the dissemination of microdata and, on an exception basis, aggregate statistics. The Committee may also initiate reviews to improve procedures, processes and policies, or undertake investigations where warranted or where directed by the Executive Board.

Executive Board.

National Health and Safety Committee

The National Health and Safety Committee (NHSC) is the forum at which the ABS, its workers and their representatives discuss organisational health and safety matters. It plays a key role in health and safety (WHS) governance by: receiving and considering information and issues; making decisions and recommendations on organisational WHS matters; and identifying safety matters for appropriate decision-making by the People Committee.

Methodology Advisory Committee

The Methodology Advisory Committee (MAC), is an expert advisory group of statisticians and data scientists drawn mainly from universities across Australia and New Zealand. MAC provides expert advice to the Chief Methodologist on methodological issues that arise across the production of national statistics e.g. survey design, data linkage, analysis, confidentialisation and dissemination.

Economics Statistics Advisory Group

The Economic Statistics Advisory Group (ESAG) is a body that enables the user community to provide feedback on current and planned ABS developments in the field of economic statistics

Population and Social Statistics Advisory Group

The Population and Social Statistics Advisory Group (PSSAG) is a body that enables the user community to provide feedback on current and planned ABS developments in the field of population and social statistics.

State Statistical Forum

The State Statistical Forum (SSF) is an information sharing and engagement body. It supports interaction between the ABS and the states and territories to address common statistical issues.

Data Acquisition Improvement Project Delivery Committee

The Data Acquisition Improvement Project (DAIP) is an ABS project to ensure the sustainability of the critical business function of data acquisition. DAIP was formed in response to recommendations from a review of the Operating Model of the National Data Acquisition Centre.

Regional Statistics and Agriculture Advisory Group

The Regional Statistics and Agriculture Advisory Group advises the ABS on the future direction of Australian statistics related to the agricultural industry, land and resource use, community-place based socio-economic conditions, and environmental economic accounting. The Group brings together key participants in the policy, information, and data landscape, including policy advisors, industry organisations and scientific organisations to use their expertise to develop an enduring statistical system.

Changes to governance fora during 2019–20:

- Creation of the Regional Statistics and Agriculture Advisory Group, established in 2019 as a forum for consulting on the 2021 Agriculture Census and to connect organisations with an interest in 'place based' data and

information.

- Creation of the Data Acquisition Improvement Project Delivery Committee, established in 2019 in response to recommendations from a review of the National Data Acquisition Centre operating model.
- Cessation of the Statistical Business Transformation Program Executive Board and Delivery Board due to the completion of the Program.

Audit Committee

The role of the Audit Committee is to support the governance of the ABS by providing independent advice to the Australian Statistician on the appropriateness of the ABS' financial reporting, performance reporting, risk oversight and management, and the system of internal control.

There are currently four external Audit Committee members, including the Chair, and two internal members (until 1 July 2021, as per recent PGPA Rule amendment). Membership details, including experience and expertise of each external member, are provided in Table 6.2 below.

Table 6.2: Audit Committee membership 2019-20

Member name	Qualifications, knowledge, skills or experience (include formal and informal as relevant)	Number of meetings attended/ total number of meetings	Total annual remuneration ($, GST exclusive)
Jennifer Clark (Chair) (External)	• Background: senior executive leadership roles in corporate finance and investment banking. • Extensive board and committee roles as a Non-Executive Director and Chair or member of over 20 audit, risk and finance committees in the Commonwealth and private sectors over the past 30 years: focus on governance and risk in relation to financial and performance reporting, audit, risk management, and project management. • Currently Deputy Chair Australian Maritime Safety Authority, Board member Australian Payments Network Limited; Audit Committee Chair, Deputy Chair or independent Member for a number of Commonwealth entities. • Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors	6/6	33,567.77
Loftus Harris AM (External)	• Background: senior and chief executive leadership roles in Commonwealth and State Government entities. Extensive corporate governance experience	6/6	18,325.33

	governance experience. • Experienced company chairman, director and advisor. Experienced audit and risk committee member. • Specialised knowledge areas: strategic economic development, international trade and investment, innovation, tourism, and major events. • Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors for 15 years, and past National President of the Australian Institute of Export.		
Will Laurie (External)	• Background senior executive leadership roles in professional accounting and audit firms • Experienced external member or chair of 6 Audit and Risk or chair of 6 Audit and Risk Committees for Commonwealth and ACT entities. • Specialist knowledge area: expertise in Commonwealth financial and performance management, measurement and reporting • Bachelor of Economics (Syd); Grad Dip Applied Finance and Investment. Partner of Price Waterhouse and PricewaterhouseCoopers 1980–2000. Managing Partner Price Waterhouse and PricewaterhouseCoopers Canberra Office 1992–2000. Chairman Boyce Chartered Accountants 2001–2009. Chairman birdsnest (on-line retailer) and Tarahawk Pt Ltd (property management).	6/6	18,000.00
Jennifer Scott (External)	• Extensive experience in leadership and advisory roles in financial and digital business transformation.	2/2 (Attendance from November	6,600.00

	She is the founder of Humans Meet Digital, providing guidance to companies on how to use technology to create long-term commercial advantage. Former COO for eBay's European finance team and former CFO for Expedia's Corporate Travel, affiliate and Advertising Divisions • Expertise in application of digital technology for business transformation, private sector accountancy and finance.	2019)	
Stephen Sheehan (External)	Chief Finance Officer, Department of Social Security	4/4 (Attendance from July to November 2019)	0
Jenet Connell	Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Australian Statistician, Corporate Services and Transformation Group	6/6	0
Sybille McKeown	Program Manager, Methodology Transformation Branch	6/6	0

The ABS' Audit Committee charter, which outlines the committee's functions, is available on the ABS website at:

https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/ABS+Audit+Committee+Charter+2020

Australian Statistics Advisory Council

The Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC, the Council) is the ABS' key advisory body, established under the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*.

As set out in the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*, the role of the Council is to provide independent advice to the Minister responsible for the ABS and the Statistician on:

- the improvement, extension and coordination of statistical services provided for public purposes in Australia
- annual and longer-term priorities and programs of work that should be adopted in relation to major aspects of the provision of those statistical services
- any other matters relating generally to those statistical services.

The Chairperson of the Council is Professor Gary Banks AO, Professorial Fellow at the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research. The Council reports annually to the Parliament.

Further information on ASAC and its activities can be found in its annual report which is available on the ABS website at https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf//mf/1002.0↗

Fraud control

The ABS maintains a Fraud Control Plan that is reviewed and updated at least biennially. A comprehensive fraud risk assessment is conducted to inform this update. Ad hoc assessments are also conducted where the ABS has experienced significant changes in its external environment or made material changes to internal practice. The Fraud Control Plan was updated in 2020 to ensure the ABS was suitably prepared for the additional challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

A fraud risk assessment was undertaken between December 2019 and February 2020. This assessment drew on advice from an independent external assessor. It concluded that the type of fraud risk had not changed since the previous assessment in 2018, but the sophistication of threats had increased and so control measures and vigilance needed to adjust accordingly. A subsequent assessment concluded that the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a marginally higher level of fraud risk primarily associated with higher levels of home-based working by ABS staff. The Fraud Control Plan was correspondingly updated to better capture controls related to network and home-based physical security, and staff training and awareness.

Compliance with finance law

Sections 17AG and 17BE of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014* (PGPA Rule) require that Commonwealth entities' annual reports must include a statement of any significant issues or instances of non-compliance in relation to the finance law. Entities must also notify the responsible Minister under paragraph 19(1)(e) of the PGPA Act during the reporting period and outline the actions taken to remedy the non-compliance. As the Finance Minister has responsibility for the finance law, accountable authorities should also provide a copy of their notifications of significant non-compliance with the finance law to the Finance Minister.

The ABS has not identified any instances of significant or systemic non-compliance in 2019–20.

Information Publication Scheme

As an agency subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act), the ABS is required to publish information to the public as part of the Information Publication Scheme (IPS).

Each agency must display a plan on its website showing what information it publishes in accordance with the IPS requirements.

The ABS' IPS plan is available on the ABS website at: https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/information+publication+scheme⧉

External scrutiny

Statistical Business Transformation Program (SBTP) Gateway Reviews

The SBTP has been the subject of six gateway reviews, the most recent being in November 2019. These regular reviews are conducted on behalf of the Department of Finance to provide independent assurance and advice to the program's senior responsible officer on government programs and projects, including an assessment that highlights issues that may jeopardise the delivery of benefits.

The latest review focussed on: policy context and strategic fit; business case and stakeholders; risk management; reviewing the current phase; assessment of intended outcomes and benefits, and readiness for program closure.

In addition to a comprehensive review of program documentation, the review team interviewed senior staff from across the ABS and independent SBTP executive board members to make their assessment.

The review team found the overall delivery confidence assessment for the program as Amber against the revised narrowed scope of the program, known as 'Addendum 4'. The ABS has accepted and is addressing the three recommendations made by the gateway review team.

The final gateway review of the program will be an end-stage review, and held in late September 2020.

2021 Census Privacy Impact Assessment

Galexia was commissioned by the ABS to prepare an independent Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) for the 2021 Census. The PIA recognised the ABS' strong investment in privacy, and made a number of recommendations to complement existing privacy protections.

The ABS has agreed to all recommendations, except for the recommendation related to excluding the health questions from the Census Time Capsule, on the grounds that participation in the Time Capsule is voluntary.

2021 Census Administrative Data Privacy Impact Assessment

Information Integrity Solutions was commissioned to independently assess privacy impacts of the way the ABS uses information collected by other government agencies, businesses, and organisations.

This PIA found that the ABS has robust governance and privacy-enhancing arrangements in place.

Other reviews

There were no other external reviews completed in 2019–20 that had a significant effect on the operations of the entity. There were no adverse comments or findings relating to the ABS from the Auditor-General, the Commonwealth Ombudsman, or courts or tribunals. In addition, no individual or administrative review decisions by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner were of significance to the ABS during 2019–20.

Submissions to parliamentary committees

Table 6.3: Submissions to parliamentary committees, 2019-20

Committee/Inquiry	Description of submission/ information provided
Senate Select Committee into the Jobs for the Future in Regional Areas	On 6 September 2019, the ABS provided a submission to the Inquiry into the Jobs for the Future in Regional Areas.
Parliament of South Australia's Economic and Finance Committee/ Inquiry into the	Following the ABS' submission in June 2019, Denise Carlton, Program Manager, Population

Economic Contribution of Migration to South Australia	Statistics, appeared at a public hearing in Adelaide on Wednesday 3 July 2019.
Senate Standing Committee on COVID-19/ Inquiry into the Australian Government's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic	In May 2020, the ABS provided a response to a Question on Notice relating to the Time Use Survey and unpaid work.
The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs/ Inquiry into Homelessness in Australia	The ABS provided a submission to the inquiry on 12 June 2020. The ABS also responded to a range of Questions on Notice.
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee's Inquiry into the Performance of Australia's Dairy Industry and the Profitability of Australian Dairy Farmers since Deregulation in 2000	The ABS provided a submission on 29 November 2019 in response to the following item on the Terms of Reference for the inquiry: *b. the accuracy of statistical data collected by Dairy Australia and the Australian Bureau of Statistics.*

Procurement

ABS procurement and contracting activities are undertaken in accordance with the Commonwealth Procurement Rules. These rules are applied consistently to procurement activities through the Accountable Authority Instructions, supporting operational guidelines and procurement framework.

Information on procurements expected to be undertaken are advertised in an annual procurement plan, available from the AusTender website. This plan is reviewed and updated throughout the year.

Initiatives to support small business

The ABS supports small business participation in the Commonwealth Government procurement market. Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) and Small Enterprise participation statistics are available on the Department of Finance website.

ABS procurement practices support SMEs by adopting whole-of-government solutions to simplify interactions. This includes using the Commonwealth Contracting Suite for low-risk procurements valued under $200,000.

The ABS recognises the importance of ensuring that small businesses are paid on time. The results of the Survey of Australian Government Payments to Small Business are available on The Treasury website.

Consultancies

The ABS engages consultants when it requires specialist expertise or when independent research, review or assessment is required. Decisions to engage consultants during 2019–20 were made in accordance with the PGPA Act and related regulations, including the Commonwealth Procurement Rules and relevant internal policy.

Annual reports contain information about actual expenditure on contracts for consultancies. Information on the value of contracts and consultancies is available on the AusTender website.

During 2019–20, 41 new consultancy contracts were entered into involving total actual expenditure of $3.9 million. In addition, 17 ongoing consultancy contracts were active during the period, involving total actual expenditure of $2 million (Table 6.4).

The 2021 Census Work Program was the main driver for the continued use of consultancy services in 2019–20; services undertaken include:

- independent assurance
- business intelligence
- market research
- management advisory
- conduct of Privacy Impact Assessments.

Table 6.4: Number and expenditure on consultants, 2019-20

No. of new contracts entered into during the period	41
Total actual expenditure during the period on new contracts (incl. GST)	$3,891,000
No. of ongoing contracts engaging consultants that were entered into during a previous period	17
Total actual expenditure during the period on ongoing contracts (incl. GST)	$2,029,000

Exempt contracts

During the 2019–20 financial year the ABS did not exempt any contracts or standing offers from publication on AusTender on the basis that they would disclose exempt information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

Asset management

The ABS' asset management policies are set out in the Accountable Authority Instructions and supporting financial management procedures, which are in accordance with relevant accounting standards and other legislative requirements. Further details on the ABS' asset policies are contained in note 2.2 of the Financial Statements.

An asset register details assets held by the ABS, and an annual stocktake is conducted to ensure the completeness of information held in the register. A capital management plan details the strategic asset requirements and funding sources for ongoing asset management and replacement.

Advertising and market research

Under section 311A of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*, the ABS is required to disclose payments over $14,000 (GST inclusive) for advertising and market research in the annual report.

During 2019–20, the ABS' total expenditure for advertising and market research over the reporting threshold was $1,120,774 (GST inclusive) (Table 6.5), the vast majority of which was expended on the 2021 Census concept testing.

Further information on these advertising campaigns is available at www.abs.gov.au and in the reports on Australian Government advertising prepared by the Department of Finance. Those reports are available on the Department of Finance's website.

Table 6.5: Advertising and market research payments over $14,000, 2019–20

Organisation	Purpose	Expenditure ($, GST inclusive)
Market research organisations		
Ipsos Public Affairs Pty Ltd	Market Research	50,103
Taylor Nelson Sofres	Services	292,380
Australia Pty Limited.	2021 Census	495,000
Taylor Nelson Sofres	concept testing	
Australia Pty Limited.	2021 Census	
	concept testing	
Advertising (Campaign and non-campaign advertising)		
Universal McCann	Recruitment	25,772
Universal McCann	advertising –	16,907
BMF Advertising Pty Ltd	General	22,000
BWM Dentsu	Recruitment	22,000
The Monkeys Pty Ltd	advertising –	22,000
	Graduates	
	Campaign	
	development	
	Campaign	
	development	
Public relations organisations		
Isentia Pty Ltd	Media Monitoring Services	174,613
Total Payments over $14,000 (GST Inclusive)		**1,120,774**

Introduction

The human resource (HR) management function is a key enabler for ensuring the ABS has the right people in the right place at the right time, to meet Australia's need for quality information to inform important decisions.

As at 30 June 2020, there were a total of 3,314 operative and inoperative staff employed by the ABS, including:

- 2,781 operative staff employed under the *Public Service Act 1999*
- 114 inoperative staff employed under the *Public Service Act 1999*
- 407 operative interviewers employed under the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*
- 11 inoperative interviewers employed under the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*
- The Australian Statistician, by statutory appointment under the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975.*

Tables 7.1 to 7.8 provide a breakdown of ABS staffing levels as at 30 June 2020 and compare them with levels as at 30 June 2019. The tables include information on gender, employment type and status, classification, location, and diversity.

Table 7.1: Total ongoing staff by gender, location and employment status, at 30 June 2019 & 2020[a]

	At 30 June 2019					At 30 June 2020				
	Male		Female		Total	Male		Female		Total
Location	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time		Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	
NSW	81	46	59	88	**274**	77	43	50	90	**260**
Vic.[b]	225	39	173	130	**568**	230	37	163	135	**566**
Qld	66	23	54	82	**225**	67	24	64	81	**236**
SA	68	27	71	83	**249**	75	27	75	79	**256**
WA	49	21	34	65	**169**	53	18	38	62	**171**
Tas.	41	13	38	42	**134**	46	12	36	40	**134**
ACT	461	50	412	134	**1058**	465	52	413	132	**1062**
NT	6	7	11	17	**41**	7	9	11	15	**42**
Total	997	226	852	641	**2718[c]**	1020	222	850	634	**2727[c]**

(a) Counts include the Australian Statistician, interviewers and inoperative staff.

(b) Includes staff located in offices in Dandenong, Geelong and Melbourne.

(c) Includes non-binary staff.

Table 7.2: Total non-ongoing staff by gender, location and employment status, at 30 June 2019 & 2020[a]

	At 30 June 2019					At 30 June 2020				
	Male		Female		Total	Male		Female		Total
Location	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time		Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	
NSW	6	3	4	2	**15**	5	3	3	2	**13**
Vic.[b]	51	47	61	74	**233**	65	59	82	98	**304**
Qld	4	5	3	4	**16**	5	4	7	3	**19**
SA	18	3	14	3	**38**	10	4	11	4	**29**
WA	16	3	8	2	**29**	14	3	10	0	**27**
Tas.	3	0	2	1	**6**	5	0	2	1	**8**

ACT	61	19	54	10	**145**	82	21	63	18	**185**
NT	0	0	0	0	**0**	1	0	1	0	**2**
Total	**159**	**80**	**146**	**96**	**482**[c]	**187**	**94**	**179**	**126**	**587**[c]

(a) Counts include interviewers and inoperative staff.

(b) Includes staff located in offices in Dandenong, Geelong and Melbourne.

(c) Includes non binary staff.

Table 7.3: Ongoing Public Service Act staff by gender, classification and employment status, at 30 June 2019 & 2020 (a)(b)(c)

	At June 30 2019[d]					At June 30 2020[e]				
	Male		**Female**		**Total**	**Male**		**Female**		**Total**
Classification	**Full-time**	**Part-time**	**Full-time**	**Part-time**		**Full-time**	**Part-time**	**Full-time**	**Part-time**	
SES 3	1[d]	0	3	0	**4**	1[e]	0	3	0	**4**
SES 2	5	0	6[d]	0	**11**	9	0	5[e]	0	**14**
SES 1	17[d]	0	12[d]	2[d]	**31**	16	1	11[e]	1	**29**
EL 2	75	2	48	14	**139**[d]	71	3	56	10	**140**[e]
EL 1	196	26	157	80	**459**[d]	201	20	155	76	**452**[e]
APS 6	308	23	240	122	**693**[d]	298	27	226	123	**674**[e]
APS 5	198	13	221	88	**520**[d]	192	17	202	98	**509**[e]
APS 4	164	15	131	35	**347**[d]	186	13	148	41	**389**[e]
APS 3	28	0	30	5	**63**[d]	42	0	43	7	**92**[e]
APS 2	1	1	1	0	**3**	1	1	0	0	**2**
APS 1	0	0	0	0	**0**	0	0	0	0	**0**
Other[f]	3	0	3	0	**6**	2	0	1	0	**3**
Total	**996**	**80**	**852**	**346**	**2276**[g]	**1019**	**82**	**850**	**356**	**2308**[g]

(a) Includes all operative and inoperative ABS staff employed under the *Public Service Act 1999*.

(b) Excludes the Australian Statistician and interviewers.

(c) Counts are based on nominal classification.

(d) 2019 includes 98 inoperative ongoing staff (by level: SESB3 – 1 male; SESB2 – 2 female; SESB1 – 1 male & 2 female; EL2 – 4 male & 3 female; EL1 – 5 male & 17 female; APS6 – 3 male & 24 female; APS5 – 5 male & 17 female; APS4– 3 male & 10 female; APS3 – 1 female).

(e) 2020 includes 112 inoperative ongoing staff (by level: SESB3 – 1 male; SESB2 – 1 female; SESB1 – 1 female; EL2 – 5 male & 5 female; EL1 – 6 male & 17 female; APS6 – 9 male & 27 female; APS5 – 4 male & 23 female; APS4 – 4 male & 8 female; APS3 – 1 female).

(f) All staff included in the 'Other' category at 30 June 2019 & 2020 were cadets.

(g) Includes non binary staff.

Table 7.4: Non-ongoing Public Service Act staff by gender, classification and employment status, at 30 June 2019 & 2020 (a)(b)(c)

	At June 30 2019[d]					At June 30 2020[e]				
	Male		**Female**		**Total**	**Male**		**Female**		**Total**
Classification	**Full-time**	**Part-time**	**Full-time**	**Part-time**		**Full-time**	**Part-time**	**Full-time**	**Part-time**	
SES 3	0	0	0	0	**0**	0	0	0	0	**0**

SES 2	1	0	0	0	**1**	0	0	0	0	**0**
SES 1	1	0	0	0	**1**	0	0	0	0	**0**
EL 2	3	2	1	2	**8**	3	7	2	2	**14**
EL 1	12	5	4	3	**24**	8	6	5	3	**22**
APS 6	29	9	13	1	**52(d)**	42	9	29	6	**86(e)**
APS 5	14	0	19	4	**37**	42	4	46	9	**101(e)**
APS 4	68	5	72	15	**160**	71	5	78	21	**176**
APS 3	27	7	33	12	**80**	19	11	18	8	**56**
APS 2	4	51	4	53	**112**	2	52	1	77	**132**
APS 1	0	0	0	0	**0**	0	0	0	0	**0**
Other	0	0	0	0	**0**	0	0	0	0	**0**
Total	**159**	**79**	**146**	**90**	**475(f)**	**187**	**94**	**179**	**126**	**587(f)**

(a) Includes all operative and inoperative ABS staff employed under the *Public Service Act 1999*.

(b) Excludes interviewers.

(c) Counts are based on nominal classification.

(d) 2019 includes 1 inoperative non-ongoing female APS6.

(e) 2020 includes 2 inoperative non-ongoing staff (by level: APS6 – 1 female; APS5 – 1 female).

(f) Includes non binary staff.

Table 7.5: Public Service Act staff by location and employment type, at 30 June 2019 & 2020 [a][b]

Location	At 30 June 2019[c]			At 30 June 2020[d]		
	Ongoing	Non-ongoing	Total	Ongoing	Non-ongoing	Total
NSW	169	14	183	162	13	175
Vic.[e]	478	231	709	479	304	783
Qld	158	13	171	169	19	188
SA	196	38	234	208	29	237
WA	116	28	144	120	27	147
Tas.	102	6	108	104	8	112
ACT	1038	145	1183	1046	185	1231
NT	19	0	19	20	2	22
Total	**2276**	**475**	**2751**	**2308**	**587**	**2895**

(a) Includes all operative and inoperative ABS staff employed under the *Public Service Act 1999*.

(b) Excludes the Australian Statistician and interviewers.

(c) Includes 98 inoperative ongoing staff and 1 inoperative non-ongoing staff at 30 June 2019.

(d) Includes 112 inoperative ongoing staff and 2 inoperative non-ongoing staff at 30 June 2020.

(e) Includes staff located in offices in Dandenong, Geelong and Melbourne.

Table 7.6: Number of interviewers by location and employment type, at 30 June 2019 & 2020(a)

Location	At 30 June 2019[b]			At 30 June 2020[c]		
	Ongoing	Non-ongoing	Total	Ongoing	Non-ongoing	Total

	ongoing			ongoing		
NSW	105	1	**106**	98	0	**98**
Vic.	90	2	**92**	87	0	**87**
Qld	67	3	**70**	67	0	**67**
SA	53	0	**53**	48	0	**48**
WA	53	1	**54**	51	0	**51**
Tas	32	0	**32**	30	0	**30**
ACT	19	0	**19**	15	0	**15**
NT	22	0	**22**	22	0	**22**
Total	**441**	**7**	**448**	**418**	**0**	**418**

(a) Includes all operative and inoperative interviewers.

(b) Includes 8 inoperative ongoing interviewers at 30 June 2019.

(c) Includes 11 inoperative ongoing interviewers at 30 June 2020.

ABS workforce strategy

The *ABS Workforce Strategy 2019–23* describes the strategic roadmap for building the ABS' workforce capability and driving high performance. It helps position the ABS as an 'employer of choice', with a focus on purpose, people, place, and partnerships as motivators for current and future staff.

ABS workforce planning

Workforce planning supports the implementation of the Workforce Strategy, embedding an organisation-wide capability to plan for, and respond to, external influences and changing business requirements. The workforce is agile and adaptable, meeting cyclical business needs and rising to the challenges of measuring a changing economy, population, society, and environment.

Workforce planning enables the ABS to anticipate and respond to internal and external environmental changes on its workforce including building and sourcing the capabilities required now and into the future, talent management, succession planning, staff engagement, and organisational and cultural change. Workforce planning supports continued delivery of enhanced public value by building organisational capability and statistical expertise to ensure the ABS continues to deliver the trusted and reliable official statistics required by Australia's decision makers.

Shaping the culture of the ABS

In 2015, the ABS commenced a program of work, as part of the broader transformation program, to shift its organisational culture and become a more open, engaged, and outward-looking agency, working in partnership with others. In September 2019, the ABS re-assessed its organisational culture using the Organisational Culture Inventory (OCI) which showed improvements to 22 of 31 factors.

Results from the *2019 APS Employee Census*, published for the first time on the ABS website in November 2019, also indicated improvements in both internal satisfaction with the organisation's culture and the processes in place to support cultural change.

In 2019–20 the ABS drove culture change through a range of activities, including:

- Holding a leadership summit on the organisation's identified high-performance behaviours: customer-focused, collaborative, accountable, agile, innovative, self-aware *(ABS: Our Culture 2018–2021)*.
- Conducting team action planning sessions with staff at all levels to identify and act on data-driven local culture change initiatives.
- Tailoring ABS leadership and management training around the high-performance leadership behaviours and management routines expected to be displayed across the ABS.
- Embedding high performance behaviours, aligned with cultural aspirations, in the *ABS Job Design Model* and into each person's job description.
- Enhancing the *Development and Performance Agreement* process to reflect the new job roles and high-performance behaviours in performance conversations.
- Recognising high performing individuals and teams with quarterly *ABS Excellence* and annual *Australian Statistician's Awards*.
- Implementing a new internal mobility initiative (Raise Your Hand) to empower staff to be more accountable, agile, and innovative in seeking change and taking control of their career movements and development.

Workplace diversity and inclusion in the ABS

The ABS is committed to building an inclusive and diverse culture. The *ABS Inclusion and Diversity Strategy 2018–21* sets out the ABS' intention to continue to create diverse and inclusive workplaces that are reflective of the Australian community, and benefit from the diverse skills, perspectives, and experiences of its staff, in order to enable and support the ABS in informing Australia's important decisions.

The ABS has 6 staff networks designed for staff to connect, share knowledge and experiences, and foster meaningful and sustainable relationships celebrating and promoting inclusion and diversity in the ABS. The networks, supported by 13 senior Inclusion and Diversity Champions, are open to diversity group staff and allies:

- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse – sharing knowledge and experiences of people across a range of cultural backgrounds.
- Disability and Carers – creating supportive relationships for staff with disability and caring responsibilities.
- Gender Equity – creating inclusion and reducing bias across all gender identities.
- Neurodiversity – for staff who are (or think they may be) neurodivergent, their managers, and colleagues.
- Pride – bringing together people who may identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer.
- Youmpla – supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees.

In 2019–20, the ABS was endorsed as an 'Inclusive Employer' by the Diversity Council of Australia (DCA), demonstrating its active commitment to inclusion by exceeding the DCA's Inclusion-@-Work Index.

The new Australian Statistician, Dr David Gruen, continued to drive inclusion and diversity initiatives in his role as a Male Champion of Change (MCC) for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). In his MCC role, the previous Australian Statistician, David W. Kalisch contributed to the *Male Champions of Change Impact Report 2019*.

Since June 2016, the ABS has maintained female representation at over 40% in its Senior Executive Service (SES). The ABS was one of only three MCC STEM organisations (out of 14) that achieved the 40% or above target for female representation in identified role types, as well as completing or actioning 16 of 20 MCC applicable practical actions as reported in the *Male Champions of Change Impact Report 2019*.

The increase of female SES in 2015–16 was a direct result of the ABS' work on gender equity and its Gender Diversity Action Plan. Its key tenets, including a greater awareness of the biases women face and actions such as encouraging high potential women to apply for promotion, continue to be applied in attracting and retaining female senior executives. Monitoring female representation at the SES levels is undertaken regularly and during all recruitment processes.

Accessible and inclusive strategies support the ABS' diverse workforce across all levels including flexible work practices such as working from home, teleworking, flexible hours, and part-time or job share arrangements.

Figure 7.1: Proportion of female staff in the ABS, Senior Executive Service (SES) and all staff, December 2013 to June 2020 (a)(b)
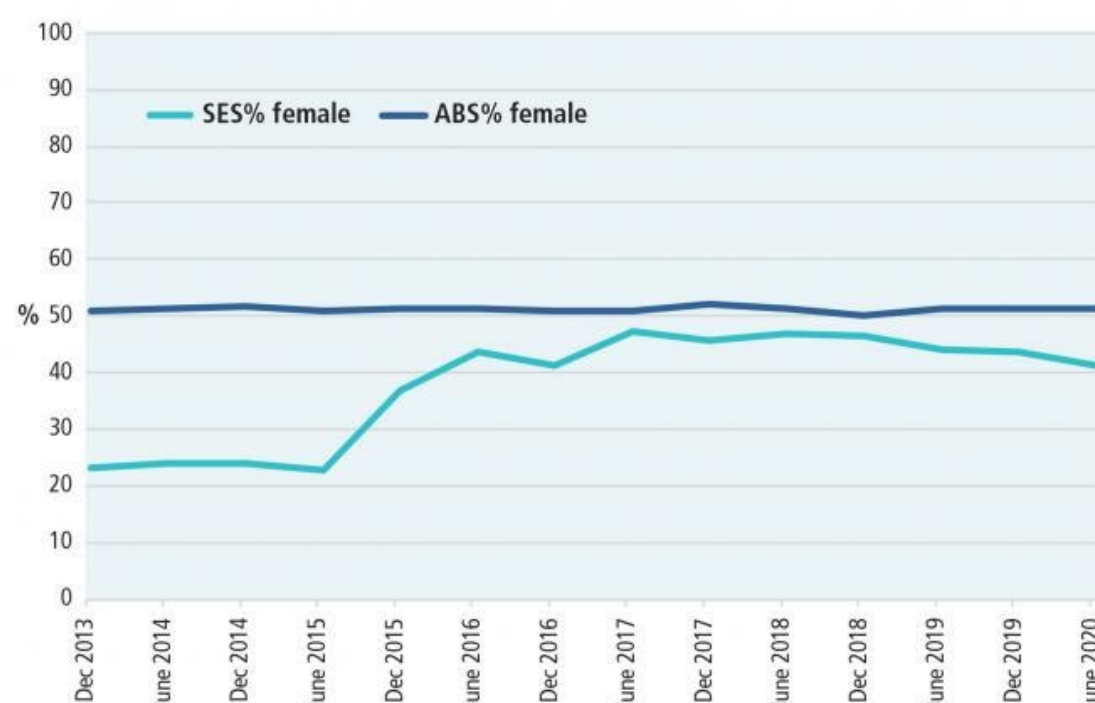
Fostering inclusion

To support the ABS' commitment to be an inclusive and diverse organisation, some highlights from 2019–20 have included:

- Launching ABS Reconciliation Spaces and timeline murals in all offices throughout Australia in conjunction with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff network, Youmpla.
- Facilitating 'Changing Minds through Storytelling' experiential learning sessions in which ABS staff shared their experiences and journey of living and working with disability with senior executives.
- Conducting a 'Lunch, Listen and Learn' monthly series with senior women across the APS sharing their stories, insights and career pathways with staff.
- Engaging guest speakers with diverse backgrounds to share their stories and career journeys.
- Delivering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural awareness training to managers and teams welcoming new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander recruits.
- Releasing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Disability, and Core Inclusion eLearning modules from the SBS Inclusion Program series to support manager and staff capability development and cultural understanding.
- Promoting and celebrating days of significance and importance to staff networks, for example NAIDOC Week, Wear it Purple Day, International Women's Day, International Day of People with Disability.
- Using a range of recruitment activities aimed at making the ABS' workforce more representative of the Australian population.
- Ranking second of all Large APS Agencies in 'creating a diverse workplace' and 'supporting and promoting an inclusive culture' in the *2019 APS Employee Census*.

Multicultural access and equity

The ABS is committed to improving engagement and responding to the needs of Australians from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Strategies and policies are developed that are accessible and inclusive, and engagement strategies are developed as required. For example, the 2021 Census program has employed Inclusive Strategy Managers to engage with, and ensure accurate counting of, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities in the forthcoming Census.

ABS workforce diversity profile

Table 7.7: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff by employment type, at 30 June 2019 & 2020[a][b]

	At 30 June 2019	At 30 June 2020
Ongoing	25	34
Non-ongoing	2	3
Total	**27**	**37**

(a) Includes all operative and inoperative staff employed under the *Public Service Act 1999*.

(b) Excludes interviewers.

Table 7.8: Staff identifying as having a disability by employment type, at 30 June 2019 & 2020[a]

	At 30 June 2019	At 30 June 2020
Ongoing	61	63
Non-ongoing	5	10
Total	**66**	**73**

(a) Includes all operative and inoperative staff employed under the *Public Service Act 1999*.

(a) Includes all operative and inoperative staff employed under the *Public Service Act 1999*.

(b) Excludes interviewers.

Disability reporting mechanism

The *National Disability Strategy 2010–2020* sets out a ten-year national policy framework to improve the lives of people with disability, promote participation and create a more inclusive society. The ABS contributes to the whole-of-government two-yearly report which tracks progress against each of the six outcome areas of the Strategy and presents a picture of how people with disability are faring. This report can be found at www.dss.gov.au .

Since 2007–08, the Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) has reported at a whole- of-government level in relation to disability via the *State of the Service Report* and the *APS Statistical Bulletin*. These reports are available at www.apsc.gov.au .

People development

In line with the *ABS Workforce Strategy 2019–23*, the ABS is reshaping its workforce capability to ensure the right people with the right skills in the right roles and locations to deliver high performance.

Key achievements in 2019-20

The ABS uses a blended learning model, undertaking both face-to-face training and hosting a range of eLearning programs. A total of 12,778 course completions were recorded in 2019–20. This included approximately 9,000 essential learning (induction and recurring), statistical capability, leadership, and management courses.

In 2019–20, the ABS transitioned to providing online learning through LinkedIn Learning. ABS staff viewed 20,332 videos, completing 438 courses on a wide range of topics. Most of the accessed courses focused on Microsoft Excel, project management, and programming.

In January 2020, the ABS recruited 78 graduates. All ABS graduates build their professional capability by completing the ABS Graduate Development Program. The program includes workshops, seminars, group projects, SES shadowing, and other opportunities.

The ABS supported capability development with partner organisations across State/Territory and Federal governments. The ABS provided access to statistical training via an external Learning Management System. 147 users across four organisations accessed this training in 2019–20.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, all face-to-face training activity was suspended and replacement initiatives were developed. Specifically:

- The special seminar series 'Leading, Working and Thriving Virtually' was developed with 11 sessions delivered from March through to June 2020, and a total of 3,959 views. In comparison, the face-to-face Management Fundamentals program was delivered to 839 front line managers in the two years to June 2019.
- The 2020 Graduate Development Program swiftly transitioned from its traditional approach of primarily face-to-face delivery, to a fully-virtual program. The ABS ranked 30th in the Australia's 2020 Top 75 Graduate Employers list produced by the Australian Association of Graduate Employers.

Recruitment

The ongoing efficiency and effectiveness of the ABS depends on attracting, retaining, and deploying the right people into the most appropriate roles.

Key achievements in 2019–20

In 2019–20, ABS recruitment processes included recruitment of:

- 78 graduates, who commenced the Graduate Development Program in 2020
- 49 ongoing engagements (with 21 of these being ABS non-ongoing staff who accepted an ongoing position, and 15 transfers into the ABS from other APS agencies)
- 336 new temporary staff
- 55 promotions
- 12 ongoing interviewers.

In addition, the new internal mobility program (Raise Your Hand) successfully placed 302 ongoing staff into short-term vacant positions (3-12 months), reducing the time to fill vacant positions from an average of 50 to 35 days. The reduction in red tape has delivered efficiencies, an anticipated increase in staff engagement, increased cross-ABS collaboration, and capability development for individuals and teams.

Workplace health and safety

The ABS is committed to a proactive and collaborative approach to the management of workplace health, safety, and wellbeing. Specialist teams of Work Health and Safety (WHS) Advisors and Rehabilitation Specialists focus on wellbeing at work, preventing injury and illness, early intervention if injury or illness occurs, and rehabilitation and return to work programs.

The ABS' specialist teams supported the functions of the field and site-based Health and Safety Committees, which advise the National Health and Safety Committee and the People Committee to design and implement health and wellbeing initiatives and regulate WHS policy and guidelines. A significant achievement in 2019–20 was the effective workplace response to the COVID-19 pandemic, when between 80 and 85% of staff utilised the option to work remotely each day. A range of initiatives to support staff wellbeing were quickly implemented and were monitored through regular wellbeing surveys.

Workplace health and safety regulation

There are a number of specific WHS roles in the ABS filled by trained staff. These include First Aid Officers, Health and Safety Representatives, and Fire Wardens. These positions have been occupied with appropriately skilled and trained ABS staff throughout 2019–20.

The ABS has one national, one field-based, and eight site-based Health and Safety Committees. These committees met quarterly as required in 2019–20 and, in addition to business-as-usual items, consulted on and finalised a new Work Health and Safety Policy and established a new framework for the Work Health and Safety Management System.

Provisional Improvement Notices, investigations and inspections

There were no Provisional Improvement Notices issued by Health and Safety Representatives under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (WHS Act). Further, there were no improvement notices issued by Comcare (the regulator) under the WHS Act during the period.

Under the WHS Act, the ABS is required to report all 'notifiable incidents' that occur in the course of conducting ABS business. A notifiable incident is defined as: a death of a person, a serious illness or injury, or a dangerous incident. The ABS reported five notifiable incidents in the period and five safety investigations were completed.

The ABS has worked collaboratively with Comcare to implement improved practices to reduce the risk of workplace injury and to reduce workers' compensation claim numbers and duration.

Rehabilitation and workers' compensation

The ABS' return to work performance has contributed to a fall in its Comcare workers' compensation premium rate for a fourth consecutive year from 2.21 per cent of payroll in 2015–16 to 0.50 per cent for 2019–20 (Table 7.9). The premium rate has steadily fallen in the last five years, with the 2019–20 ABS premium rate below the Commonwealth average rate for the second year in a row.

Table 7.9: Comcare workers' compensation premium rate (percentage of total salary)

	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
ABS	2.21	2.20	1.50	0.93	0.50
Overall scheme	1.85	1.72	1.23	1.06	0.85

The ABS has continued to strengthen its Rehabilitation Management System, the framework for achieving rehabilitation objectives and compliance within the Comcare scheme. The ABS had fifteen claims for workers' compensation within the 2019–20 financial year. Eleven of these claims have been accepted, three were disallowed, and one claim is still pending determination by Comcare.

A continuing strong focus on active case management and early intervention played a key role in reducing the impact of compensation claims and loss of productivity. The effectiveness of the ABS approach is reflected in the low number of claims and a reduction in time lost for active claims from 774 weeks in 2016–17 to 424 weeks in 2019–20.

Attendance management

Attendance management

In 2019–20, the average number of days of unscheduled absence per full-time equivalent (FTE) was 12.0 days (Table 7.10), the same as in 2018–19.

Table 7.10: Unscheduled absence: days per FTE[a][b]

	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
ABS	12.3	12.0	12.0
Australian Government (Large Agency) median	12.5	12.7	n/a[c]

(a) Excludes interviewers, non-ongoing Census Data Processing Centre staff, and Census field staff.

(b) Totals do not include workers compensation.

(c) The Australian Government (Large Agency) median for 2019–20 was not available at the time of preparing this report.

Workplace relations

Executive remuneration

Executive remuneration at the ABS refers to the remuneration of Key Management Personnel (KMP), SES staff, and Other Highly Paid Staff. Tables 7.11 and 7.12 outline the remuneration paid to KMP and SES staff. During the reporting period ending 30 June 2020, the ABS identified no Other Highly Paid Staff.

The Australian Statistician determines the remuneration for all SES staff at the ABS. In determining SES remuneration arrangements, the Australian Statistician considers:

- recommendations from the ABS SES Remuneration Committee
- contemporary remuneration arrangements and pay relativities with reference to the wider Australian Public Service
- the Australian Public Service Remuneration Survey (conducted by the Australian Public Service Commission)
- individual performance
- salary relative to other ABS SES staff
- the position of individual salaries in the market.

The ABS SES Remuneration Committee makes recommendations to the Australian Statistician on SES Band 1 and 2 employment conditions and remuneration. The ABS SES Remuneration Committee was comprised of:

- Deputy Australian Statistician, Statistical Services Group
- Deputy Australian Statistician, Census and Data Services Group
- Deputy Australian Statistician, Corporate Services and Transformation Group.

Table 7.11: Information about remuneration for key management personnel, at 30 June 2020[a]

Name	Position title	Base salary	Bonuses[b]	Other benefits and allowances[c]	Superannuation contributions	Long service leave	Other long-term benefits	Termination benefits[b]	Total remuneration
		Short-term benefits			**Post-employment benefits**	**Other long-term benefits**		**Termination benefits[b]**	**Total remuneration**
David Gruen[d]	Australian Statistician	364,362	0	1,159	44,303	21,926	0	0	431,750
David Kalisch[e]	Australian Statistician	295,714	0	930	38,976	15,385	0	0	351,005
Jenet Connell	Deputy Australian	381,209	0	2,004	71,986	26,371	0	0	481,569

	Statistician								
Luise McCulloch	Deputy Australian Statistician	369,706	0	2,004	72,198	28,246	0	0	472,154
Teresa Dickinson	Deputy Australian Statistician	372,744	0	2,004	67,593	17,071	0	0	459,412

(a) KMP remuneration is prepared on an accrual basis as required under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014* (PGPA Rule).

(b) In 2019-20, there were no bonuses nor termination benefits paid to KMP.

(c) Other benefits and allowances include car parking and related fringe benefits tax, and other allowances.

(d) Part-year - appointed 11 December 2019.

(e) Part-year - separated 10 December 2019.

Table 7.12: Information about remuneration for senior executives, at 30 June 2020[a][b][c][d]

		Short-term benefits[e]			Post-employment benefits	Other long-term benefits[f]		Termination benefits[g]	Total remuneration
Total remuneration bands	Number of senior executives	Average base salary	Average bonuses[h]	Average other benefits and allowances	Average superannuation contributions[i]	Average long service leave	Average other long-term benefits	Average termination benefits	Average total remuneration
$0-$220,000	18	81,636	0	1,452	13,783	5,177	0	9,458	111,505
$220,001-$245,000	3	191,137	0	2,602	33,921	7,067	0	0	234,727
$245,001-$270,000	16	204,619	0	2,741	37,160	10,352	0	0	254,871
$270,001-$295,000	8	210,262	0	5,560	31,526	15,774	0	14,630	277,751
$295,001-$320,000	4	249,579	0	3,679	42,456	15,309	0	0	311,022
$320,001-	3	254,563	0	2,710	45,298	29,189	0	0	331,760

$345,000									
$345,001-$370,000	3	283,070	0	11,264	46,735	18,876	0	0	359,944
$370,001-$395,000	1	300,183	0	2,710	53,074	25,001	0	0	380,968

(a) This table is prepared on an accrual basis as required under the PGPA Rule.

(b) In 2019–20, there were 26 fortnightly pays.

(c) This table reports the average total remuneration of Senior Executives who received remuneration during the reporting period.

(d) Those ABS officers that have been classified as Key Management Personnel (as per Table 7.11) have not been included in this table disclosure.

(e) The Short-term benefits is comprised of:

1) the average of Base salary (including: paid and accrued; paid while on annual leave; paid while on sick leave; higher duties allowance; and purchased annual leave); and

2) the average of Other benefits and allowances (motor vehicle allowance, car parking and related fringe benefits tax, and other allowances).

(f) The Other long-term benefits is the average amount of long services leave accrued and deferred (more than 12 months) for the reporting period. It also includes the average of any salary paid while on long services leave.

(g) The Termination benefits is the average amount of termination payment for the reporting period.

(h) In 2019–20, there were no bonuses paid to Senior Executives.

(i) The Superannuation contributions is the average of the ABS' superannuation contributions, including productivity component, for the reporting period.

Employment arrangements

Table 7.13 presents the employment arrangements for ABS staff employed under the *Public Service Act 1999* as at 30 June 2020.

Interviewers are engaged under the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* in accordance with the *Census and Statistics Regulation 2016*. The ABS Interviewers Enterprise Agreement 2020 is the employment instrument that applies to ABS interviewers (418 as at 30 June 2020).

Table 7.13: ABS employment arrangements, at 30 June 2020 [a]

	SES	Non-SES	Total
ABS staff covered by the Australian Bureau of Statistics Enterprise Agreement 2019	n/a	2848	**2848**
Individual Flexibility Arrangements (IFA) made under the Australian Bureau of Statistics Enterprise Agreement 2019 as at June 30 2020	n/a	23	**23**
SES staff covered by Determination under s. 24(1) of	47	0	**47**

the *Public Service Act 1999 (Includes SES staff on long term leave, secondment and temporary transfer to other agencies)*		
Total	**47** **2848** **2895**	

(a) The 23 employees with an IFA are included in the 2848 ABS employees.

Salary arrangements

The ABS Enterprise Agreement 2019 outlines the salary arrangements for non-SES ABS staff employed under the *Public Service Act 1999*.

Table 7.14: Salary ranges by classification level, at 30 June 2020[a][b]

	Minimum Salary	Maximum Salary
SES 3	267,955	n/a[a]
SES 2	214,364	262,596
SES 1	171,492	209,005
EL 2	124,537	149,822[b]
EL 1	99,756	115,316
APS 6	81,196	91,696
APS 5	72,279	81,188
APS 4	64,256	72,275
APS 3	56,955	64,202
APS 2	49,994	56,372
APS 1	43,719	49,808
Other – Graduate	58,587	72,275
Other – Cadet	14,804	56,955
TOTAL	**14,804**	**267,955**[a]

(a) There is no maximum salary range for the SES 3 cohort.

(b) EL2 pay point 4 only accessible as detailed in clauses 15.1 and 15.2 of the ABS Enterprise Agreement 2019.

There are no performance pay arrangements in the ABS.

Performance management in the ABS

The ABS is committed to being a high-performing public agency, promoting a people- oriented culture through focus on leadership, communication, innovation, and engagement.

Office-based staff

Where there are concerns about staff performance, specialist teams work with staff and managers, implementing early strategies to improve performance. In 2019–20, 30 successful interventions were made in respect of ongoing staff, and staff performance improved in all cases. In situations where concerns remain, ABS managers work with their ongoing staff by implementing an informal Performance Improvement Plan (PIP).

The ABS initiated two PIPs for ongoing office-based staff during 2019–20. Of these, one staff member improved performance, and one left the organisation prior to PIP completion. Where a staff member's performance has not improved through a PIP, a formal underperformance process commences. No ongoing staff were the subject of formal processes to manage underperformance following a PIP.

Performance improvement processes were initiated for four non-ongoing staff. Of these, two improved their performance, one resigned, and one was terminated early.

During 2019–20, the ABS commenced no investigations into suspected breaches of the APS Code of Conduct by ongoing ABS office-based staff. Two investigations that had commenced in 2018–19 were completed in 2019–20, one which resulted in a breach finding and no sanction being applied, and one which resulted in a breach finding and a sanction being applied.

ABS interviewers

As with office-based employees, where there are concerns about an ABS interviewer's performance, the staff and manager work together to implement an informal PIP. During 2019–20, no ABS interviewers commenced a PIP. No non-ongoing employment contracts were ceased early due to performance or conduct concerns.

Staff misconduct

Office-based staff

Misconduct proceedings commenced against three non-ongoing staff. One staff member resigned and two staff were terminated early due to conduct matters during 2019–20.

ABS interviewers

There was one misconduct investigation instigated for an interviewer during the period, with a breach found and sanction applied.

Appendix A: Resource statements

Entity Resource Statement 2019–20			
	Actual available appropriation	Payments made	Balance remaining
	for 2019–20	2019–20	2019–20
	$'000	$'000	$'000
	(a)	(b)	(a) – (b)
Departmental			
Annual appropriations - ordinary annual services[1,2]	**499,835**	419,186	80,649
Annual appropriations - other services - non-operating[3]	**9,148**	9,148	0
Total departmental annual appropriations	**508,983**	428,334	80,649
Total departmental resourcing	**508,983**	428,334	80,649
Total resourcing and payments for the ABS			

[1] Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2019-20 and Appropriation Act (No. 3) 2019–20. This may also include prior-year departmental appropriation and section 74 external revenue.

[2] Departmental capital budgets are not separately identified in Appropriation Bill (No. 1, 3, 5) and form part of ordinary annual services items. For accounting purposes, this amount has been designated as a 'contribution by owner'.

[3] Appropriation Act (No. 2) 2019–20 and Appropriation Act (No. 4) 2019–20.

Expenses for Outcome 1

Outcome 1: Decisions on important matters made by governments, business and the broader community are informed by objective, relevant and trusted official statistics produced through the collection and integration of data, its analysis, and the provision of	Budget* 2019–20 $'000 (a)	Actual Expenses 2019–20 $'000 (b)	Variation 2019–20 $'000 (a)-(b)

statistical information.			
Program 1.1: Australia Bureau of Statistics			
Departmental expenses			
Departmental appropriation	378,506	353,837	24,6691
s74 External Revenue[2]	42,608	38,661	3,9473
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year[4]	34,353	76,313	(41,960)[5]
Departmental total	**455,467**	**468,811**	**(13,344)**
Total expenses for Program 1.1	**455,467**	**468,811**	**(13,344)**
Outcome 1 totals by appropriation type			
Departmental expenses			
Departmental appropriation	378,506	353,837	24,6691
s74 External Revenue[2]	42,608	38,661	3,9473
Special appropriations	0	0	0
Special accounts	0	0	0
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year[4]	34,353	76,313	(41,960)[5]
Departmental total	**455,467**	**468,811**	**(13,344)**
Total expenses for Outcome 1			

		2018–19	2019–20
Average staffing level (number)		**2,479**	**2,619**

* Full-year budget, including any subsequent adjustment made to the 2019–20 budget at Additional Estimates.

1 The variance is primarily due to the impacts of implementation of AASB 16 Leases, reduction in travel and contractor expenses for data collection due to COVID-19, and reclassification of budgeted supplier expenditure to capital.

2 Estimated expenses incurred in relation to receipts retained under section 74 of the *PGPA Act 2013*.

3 The variance is primarily due to lower than expected retained revenue receipts.

4 Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year are made up of depreciation and amortisation expenses, resources received free of charge, and impairment and write down of assets.

5 The variance primarily relates to the movement in employee provisions as a result of the decline in the government bond rate, the write-down and impairment of intangible assets, resources received free of charge, and the impacts of implementation of AASB 16 Leases which were not budgeted for.

Appendix B: Ecological sustainability

Introduction

In 2019–20, the ABS continued its commitment to the principles of ecologically sustainable development as outlined in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). This appendix meets the requirements of sub-section 516A (6) of the EPBC Act.

Alignment of ABS activities to the principles of ecologically sustainable development

In accordance with the principles of ecologically sustainable development, the ABS pursues environmentally positive practices by:

- seeking to minimise adverse environmental impacts from its operations
- complying with relevant Commonwealth and Territory environment legislation and the Australian Government's environmental policies and initiatives
- working towards continuously improving environmental performance
- supporting and promoting an environmentally responsible culture.

Contribution to ecologically sustainable development by outcomes funded by the Appropriations Act

The ABS receives appropriation for the purpose of producing statistics on a wide range of social and economic matters which contribute to ecologically sustainable development. The ABS works closely with the community and governments to further build information on environmental statistics, to complement the more established information bases on population, society, and the economy.

For more information on ABS products and developments, please refer to the ABS website (www.abs.gov.au⬀) for statistics relating to Agriculture, People and Communities (for regional statistics), Environmental management, Energy, Water, Waste, Land, and Ecosystems.

The effect of the ABS' activities on the environment

The ABS' activities are predominately office-based and affect the environment through:

- energy consumption and greenhouse gas pollution across its offices
- paper consumption
- carbon emissions in transportation
- water usage
- waste sent to landfill, whilst increasing recycling of packaging and waste
- the procurement of environmentally friendly products and technological solutions.

Measures taken to reduce the impact of activities by the ABS on the environment

The ABS seeks to actively manage and improve its performance through targeted initiatives as opportunities arise. Several key initiatives have been:

- Implementing activity-based work fit outs across all ABS offices to decrease office footprints by at least 20%. This has reduced the environmental impact of fit out, furniture production, and the necessary operational services, particularly electricity.
- Reducing energy consumption and waste in fit outs, where possible, by including energy efficient LED lights and lighting systems, smart lighting technologies, and daylight harvesting.
- ABS publications are electronically available on the ABS website, and computer-assisted interviewing is used in place of paper forms, where possible.
- Improving video-conferencing equipment and software, increasing the number of video-conferencing facilities, and supporting virtual teams across offices to reduce the requirement to travel.
- Providing recycling services to all office-based staff, including:
  - recycling paper, bottles, aluminium cans, steel cans, plastic, and cardboard products in all offices
  - recycling mobile phones, batteries, and polystyrene in all sites where contractor packaging removal was not part of the contracts or service agreements
  - maintaining organic recycling of kitchen waste at ABS House in Canberra.
- Renewing servers and storage at end of life, which has delivered a 10% reduction in power usage in the ABS'

Data Centre.

- Commencing roll out of a new laptop fleet, which meets the Minimum Energy Performance Standards, and is 48% more energy efficient in standby mode.
- Procuring high efficiency multifunction devices (MFDs), with sustainability features including:
  - black drums using less toner and producing 33% more pages before needing service or replacement
  - spent black toner cartridges doubling as waste bottles, eliminating a consumable part.
- Procuring paper from suppliers who are Supply Nation Certified First Nation businesses which is fully recycled or Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) certified.
- Purchasing office equipment with a high energy efficiency rating.

To support and promote an environmentally responsible culture all staff have access to flexible working arrangements, which has reduced the need to work at ABS offices full-time. This has reduced staff travel to and from offices, and reduced associated office resources use, such as electricity, paper, and furniture.

Reviewing and increasing the effectiveness of those measures

The ABS typically undertakes an annual program of review for these activities, however, the 2019–20 review was delayed due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ABS also supports staff participation in local Green Teams to raise environmental awareness and develop local initiatives.

List of figures and tables

Glossary

ABARES	Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
Administrative data	Administrative data is information collected by government agencies, businesses or other organisations for various purposes, including registrations, transactions and record keeping, usually during the delivery of a service.
ANAO	Australian National Audit Office
ANU	Australian National University
ANZ	Australian and New Zealand Banking Group
API	Application Programming Interface
APS	Australian Public Service
APSC	Australian Public Service Commission
ASAC	Australian Statistics Advisory Council
ATO	Australian Tax Office
Big data	Massive complex structured and unstructured datasets that are rapidly generated and transmitted from a wide variety of sources.
BLADE	Business Longitudinal Analysis Data Environment
BoM	Bureau of Meteorology
BOP	Balance of Payments
CAH	Central Analytics Hub
CALD	Culturally and Linguistically Diverse
Census	Census of Population and Housing, conducted every five years under the authority of the Census and Statistics Act 1905. The Census aims to measure accurately the number of people and dwellings in Australia on Census Night, and a range of their key characteristics.
CFO	Chief Finance Officer
Comcare	The national authority for work health and safety, and workers' compensation.
COO	Chief Operating Officer
COVID-19	COVID-19 is the infectious disease caused by the most recently discovered coronavirus. This new virus and disease were unknown before an outbreak in December 2019.
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CPIS	Coordinated Portfolio Investment Survey; a voluntary

CPIS	Coordinated Portfolio Investment Survey; a voluntary data collection exercise conducted under the auspices of the IMF that collects an economy's data on its holdings of portfolio investment securities.
CTASS	Community Trust in ABS Statistics Survey (a five-yearly independent survey of the general community and informed users).
Customised data request	Also known as a 'consultancy'; cost recovered customer requests for ABS data not available for free.
DAIP	Data Acquisition Improvement Project (an ABS project to ensure the sustainability of data acquisition).
Data integration	Bringing information from different sources together for statistical and research purposes.
DataLab	Facility delivering remote access to data and increased ability to handle large datasets with faster processing through new/external servers.
DAWE	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
DCA	Diversity Council of Australia
DGI	Data Gaps Initiative
DHA	Department of Home Affairs
DIPA	Data Integration Partnership for Australia
DISER	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources
DRC	Disclosure Review Committee
DSDG	Deputy Secretaries' Data Group
DSS	Department of Social Services
EB	Executive Board
EL	Executive Level
EPBC Act	*Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
ESAG	Economic Statistics Advisory Group
FLAD	Farm-level Longitudinal Agricultural Dataset
FOI Act	*Freedom of Information Act 1982*
FTE	Full-time equivalent (relating to staff)
FWP	Forward Work Program
G20	The G20 (or Group of Twenty) is an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from 19 countries and the European Union (EU).
GST	Goods and services tax
HSR	Health and safety representative
HR	Human resources
IFA	Individual flexibility arrangement
IIP	International Investment Position

IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPAA	Institute of Public Administration Australia
IP Australia	IP Australia is an agency of the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources. IP Australia administers intellectual property rights and legislation relating to patents, trademarks, registered designs and plant breeder's rights in Australia.
IPS	Information Publication Scheme
KMP	Key Management Personnel
LEED	Linked Employer-Employer Dataset
MAC	Methodology Advisory Committee
MADIP	Multi-Agency Data Integration Project
MCC	Male-Champion of Change
MFD	Multifunction device
MP	Member of Parliament
n/a	not applicable
NAIDOC	National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee
NDAC	National data Acquisition Centre (a branch of the ABS)
NHSC	National Health and Safety Committee
NIAA	National Indigenous Australians Agency
Notifiable incident	An incident is notifiable to Comcare if it rises out of the conduct of the business or undertaking by the ABS and results in the death, serious injury or serious illness of a person or involves a dangerous incident.
OCI	Organisational Cultural Inventory.
ONDC	Office of the National Data Commissioner.
Pandemic	The worldwide spread of a new disease.
PAYG	Pay as you go (relating to tax)
PBS	Portfolio Budget Statement
PEFC	Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification
PGPA Act	*Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*
PGPA Rule	*Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014*
PIA	Privacy Impact Assessment
PIP	Performance Improvement Plan
PM&C	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
PSSAG	Population and Social Statistics Advisory Group
RBA	Reserve Bank of Australia
SBTP	Statistical Business Transformation Program

SDDS	Special Data Dissemination Standard
Secondment	A staff member working temporarily in another agency or department
SES	Senior Executive Service Socio-economic status
Significant error	Referring to errors in a statistical release: errors in indicators of national or state significance where there is a possibility a user may have been misled (also known as 'high level release incidents').
SME	Small and medium enterprises
Social licence	Ongoing support and/or acceptance from the community and stakeholders
SSF	State Statistical Forum.
Statistical release	Any product released on the ABS website that has a catalogue number and a reference period, including statistical publications, information papers, research papers, classifications and standards. Excludes the reissue of any product, and corporate documents such as annual reports, the corporate plan and forward work program.
STEM	Science, technology, engineering and mathematics
STP	Single Touch Payroll: a recent regulation that dictates when an dhow businesses report payroll activity to the Australian Tax Office (ATO) i.e submitted digitally after each pay day.
TableBuilder	An online self-help tool which enables users to create tables, graphs and maps of Census data.
Unscheduled absence	Any form of leave which has not been approved in advance, including bereavement, carers, compensation, sick (both with and without evidence) and unauthorised leave.
WHS	Work health and safety
WHS Act	*Work Health and Safety Act 2011*

List of Requirements

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement
17AD(g)	**Letter of transmittal**		
17AI	Letter of transmittal	A copy of the letter of transmittal signed and dated by accountable authority on date final text approved, with statement that the report has been prepared in accordance with section 46 of the Act and any enabling legislation that specifies additional requirements in relation to the annual report.	Mandatory
17AD(h)	**Aids to access**		
17AJ(a)	N/A	Table of contents (print only).	Mandatory
17AJ(b)	N/A	Alphabetical index (print only).	Mandatory
17AJ(c)	Glossary	Glossary of abbreviations and acronyms.	Mandatory
17AJ(d)		List of requirements.	Mandatory
17AJ(e)	Copyright information and ABS contact details	Details of contact officer.	Mandatory
17AJ(f)	Copyright information and ABS contact details	Entity's website address.	Mandatory
17AJ(g)	Copyright information and ABS contact details	Electronic address of report.	Mandatory
17AD(a)	**Review by accountable authority**		
17AD(a)	Australian Statistician's review	A review by the accountable authority of the entity.	Mandatory
17AD(b)	**Overview of the entity**		
17AE(1)(a)(i)	Purpose and plan	A description of the role and functions of the entity.	Mandatory
17AE(1)(a)(ii)		A description of the organisational structure of the entity.	Mandatory
17AE(1)(a)(iii)	ABS Portfolio Budget Statement outcome and program	A description of the outcomes and programmes administered by the entity.	Mandatory
17AE(1)(a)(iv)	Purpose and plan	A description of the purposes of the entity as included in corporate plan.	Mandatory
17AE(1)(aa)(i)		Name of the accountable authority or each member of the accountable authority	Mandatory
17AE(1)(aa)(ii)		Position title of the accountable authority or each member of the accountable authority	Mandatory
17AE(1)(aa)(iii)		Period as the accountable authority or member of the accountable authority within the reporting period	Mandatory
17AE(1)(b)	N/A	An outline of the structure of the portfolio of the entity.	Portfolio

			departments - mandatory
17AE(2)	N/A	Where the outcomes and programs administered by the entity differ from any Portfolio Budget Statement, Portfolio Additional Estimates Statement or other portfolio estimates statement that was prepared for the entity for the period, include details of variation and reasons for change.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AD(c)	**Report on the Performance of the entity**		
	Annual performance Statements		
17AD(c)(i); 16F	Introductory Statement	Annual performance statement in accordance with paragraph 39(1)(b) of the Act and section 16F of the Rule.	Mandatory
17AD(c)(ii)	**Report on Financial Performance**		
17AF(1)(a)	Independent Auditor's Report	A discussion and analysis of the entity's financial performance.	Mandatory
17AF(1)(b)	Appendix A: Resource statements	A table summarising the total resources and total payments of the entity.	Mandatory
17AF(2)	Appendix A: Resource statements	If there may be significant changes in the financial results during or after the previous or current reporting period, information on those changes, including: the cause of any operating loss of the entity; how the entity has responded to the loss and the actions that have been taken in relation to the loss; and any matter or circumstances that it can reasonably be anticipated will have a significant impact on the entity's future operation or financial results.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AD(d)	**Management and Accountability**		
	Corporate Governance		
17AG(2)(a)	Fraud control	Information on compliance with section 10 (fraud systems)	Mandatory
17AG(2)(b)(i)	Letter of transmittal	A certification by accountable authority that fraud risk assessments and fraud control plans have been prepared.	Mandatory
17AG(2)(b)(ii)	Letter of transmittal	A certification by accountable authority that appropriate mechanisms for preventing, detecting incidents of, investigating or otherwise dealing with, and recording or reporting fraud that meet the specific needs of the entity are in place.	Mandatory
17AG(2)(b)(iii)	Letter of transmittal	A certification by accountable authority that all reasonable measures have been taken to deal appropriately with fraud relating to the entity.	Mandatory
17AG(2)(c)	Governance fora	An outline of structures and processes in place for the entity to implement principles and objectives of corporate governance.	Mandatory
17AG(2)(d) – (e)	Fraud control	A statement of significant issues reported to Minister under paragraph 19(1)(e) of the Act that relates to non-compliance with Finance law and action taken to remedy non-compliance.	If applicable, Mandatory
	Audit Committee		
17AG(2A)(a)	Audit Committee	A direct electronic address of the charter determining the functions of the entity's audit committee.	Mandatory
17AG(2A)(b)	Audit Committee	The name of each member of the entity's audit committee.	Mandatory
17AG(2A)(c)	Audit Committee	The qualifications, knowledge, skills or experience of each member of the entity's audit committee.	Mandatory

17AG(2A)(d)	Audit Committee	Information about the attendance of each member of the entity's audit committee at committee meetings.	Mandatory
17AG(2A)(e)	Audit Committee	The remuneration of each member of the entity's audit committee.	Mandatory
External Scrutiny			
17AG(3)	External scrutiny	Information on the most significant developments in external scrutiny and the entity's response to the scrutiny.	Mandatory
17AG(3)(a)	External scrutiny	Information on judicial decisions and decisions of administrative tribunals and by the Australian Information Commissioner that may have a significant effect on the operations of the entity.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AG(3)(b)	External scrutiny	Information on any reports on operations of the entity by the Auditor-General (other than report under section 43 of the Act), a Parliamentary Committee, or the Commonwealth Ombudsman.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AG(3)(c)	N/A	Information on any capability reviews on the entity that were released during the period.	If applicable, Mandatory
Management of Human Resources			
17AG(4)(a)	Introduction	An assessment of the entity's effectiveness in managing and developing employees to achieve entity objectives.	Mandatory
17AG(4)(aa)	Introduction	Statistics on the entity's employees on an ongoing and non-ongoing basis, including the following:(a) statistics on full-time employees;(b) statistics on part-time employees;(c) statistics on gender(d) statistics on staff location	Mandatory
17AG(4)(b)	Introduction	Statistics on the entity's APS employees on an ongoing and non-ongoing basis; including the following: Statistics on staffing classification level; Statistics on full-time employees; Statistics on part-time employees;Statistics on gender;Statistics on staff location;Statistics on employees who identify as Indigenous.	Mandatory
17AG(4)(c)	Workplace relations	Information on any enterprise agreements, individual flexibility arrangements, Australian workplace agreements, common law contracts and determinations under subsection 24(1) of the Public Service Act 1999.	Mandatory
17AG(4)(c)(ii)	Workplace relations	The salary ranges available for APS employees by classification level.	Mandatory
17AG(4)(c)(i)	Workplace relations	Information on the number of SES and non-SES employees covered by agreements etc identified in paragraph 17AG(4)(c).	Mandatory
17AG(4)(c)(iii)		A description of non-salary benefits provided to employees.	Mandatory
17AG(4)(d)(i)	N/A	Information on the number of employees at each classification level who received performance pay.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AG(4)(d)(ii)	N/A	Information on aggregate amounts of performance pay at each classification level.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AG(4)(d)(iii)	N/A	Information on the average amount of performance payment, and range of such payments, at each classification level.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AG(4)(d)(iv)	N/A	Information on aggregate amount of performance payments.	If applicable, Mandatory
Assets Management			
17AG(5)	Asset management	An assessment of effectiveness of assets management where asset management is a significant part of the entity's activities	If applicable, mandatory
Purchasing			

17AG(6)	[Procurement](#)	An assessment of entity performance against the Commonwealth Procurement Rules.	Mandatory
	Reportable consultancy contracts		
17AG(7)(a)	[Procurement](#)	A summary statement detailing the number of new reportable consultancy contracts entered into during the period; the total actual expenditure on all such contracts (inclusive of GST); the number of ongoing reportable consultancy contracts that were entered into during a previous reporting period; and the total actual expenditure in the reporting period on those ongoing contracts (inclusive of GST).	Mandatory
17AG(7)(b)	[Procurement](#)	A statement that "During [reporting period], [specified number] new reportable consultancy contracts were entered into involving total actual expenditure of $[specified million]. In addition, [specified number] ongoing reportable consultancy contracts were active during the period, involving total actual expenditure of $[specified million]".	Mandatory
17AG(7)(c)	[Procurement](#)	A summary of the policies and procedures for selecting and engaging consultants and the main categories of purposes for which consultants were selected and engaged.	Mandatory
17AG(7)(d)	[Procurement](#)	A statement that "Annual reports contain information about actual expenditure on reportable consultancy contracts. Information on the value of reportable consultancy contracts is available on the AusTender website."	Mandatory
	Australian National Audit Office Access Clauses		
17AG(8)	N/A	If an entity entered into a contract with a value of more than $100 000 (inclusive of GST) and the contract did not provide the Auditor-General with access to the contractor's premises, the report must include the name of the contractor, purpose and value of the contract, and the reason why a clause allowing access was not included in the contract.	If applicable, Mandatory
	Exempt contracts		
17AG(9)	N/A	If an entity entered into a contract or there is a standing offer with a value greater than $10 000 (inclusive of GST) which has been exempted from being published in AusTender because it would disclose exempt matters under the FOI Act, the annual report must include a statement that the contract or standing offer has been exempted, and the value of the contract or standing offer, to the extent that doing so does not disclose the exempt matters.	If applicable, Mandatory
	Small business		
17AG(10)(a)	[Procurement](#)	A statement that "[Name of entity] supports small business participation in the Commonwealth Government procurement market. Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) and Small Enterprise participation statistics are available on the Department of Finance's website."	Mandatory
17AG(10)(b)	[Procurement](#)	An outline of the ways in which the procurement practices of the entity support small and medium enterprises.	Mandatory
17AG(10)(c)	[Procurement](#)	If the entity is considered by the Department administered by the Finance Minister as material in nature—a statement that "[Name of entity] recognises the importance of ensuring that small businesses are paid on time. The results of the Survey of Australian Government Payments to Small Business are available on the Treasury's website."	If applicable, Mandatory

	Financial Statements		
17AD(e)	Independent Auditor's Report	Inclusion of the annual financial statements in accordance with subsection 43(4) of the Act.	Mandatory
	Executive Remuneration		
17AD(da)	Workplace relations	Information about executive remuneration in accordance with Subdivision C of Division 3A of Part 2-3 of the Rule.	Mandatory
17AD(f)	**Other Mandatory Information**		
17AH(1)(a)(i)	Advertising and market research	If the entity conducted advertising campaigns, a statement that "During [reporting period], the [name of entity] conducted the following advertising campaigns: [name of advertising campaigns undertaken]. Further information on those advertising campaigns is available at [address of entity's website] and in the reports on Australian Government advertising prepared by the Department of Finance. Those reports are available on the Department of Finance's website."	If applicable, Mandatory
17AH(1)(a)(ii)	N/A	If the entity did not conduct advertising campaigns, a statement to that effect.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AH(1)(b)	N/A	A statement that "Information on grants awarded by [name of entity] during [reporting period] is available at [address of entity's website]."	If applicable, Mandatory
17AH(1)(c)	Workplace diversity and inclusion in the ABS	Outline of mechanisms of disability reporting, including reference to website for further information.	Mandatory
17AH(1)(d)	Information Publication Scheme	Website reference to where the entity's Information Publication Scheme statement pursuant to Part II of FOI Act can be found.	Mandatory
17AH(1)(e)	N/A	Correction of material errors in previous annual report	If applicable, mandatory
17AH(2)	Appendix B: Ecological sustainability	Information required by other legislation	Mandatory